Manasa, a young girl with speech and hearing impairment in communication with Salma who is totally blind...

Both Manasa and Salma are pursuing higher education with support from Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. Samarthanam has provided a safe & secure residential facility to both of them like many others, so that they can follow their hearts, reach their desired goals without fearing barriers!

Salma is well on her way to identify her calling while Manasa found dance as an effective form of expression!

There are several Salmas and Manasas in the Indian society waiting to find the right avenues so they can become proud contributors! Come support them achieve their dreams!

Please visit www.samarthanamusa.org for more details.
Vision-Aid launches the Vision-Aid Online Academy!

In 2014, Vision-Aid is launching an exciting new program - The Vision-Aid Online Academy, a virtual training portal that will help Vision-Aid reach blind schools all over India. This new platform will offer two modes of teaching:

Live interactive Classes which will support "netcasting" of Vision-Aid courses to remote locations. These live online instructor-led classes will be taught by qualified Vision-Aid instructors using modern virtual interactive classroom technology, including live chats, discussions and tests for certification.

Managed Self-paced learning classes offering structured, custom learning modules. This will include online lessons, tests/assessments and homework assignments that will help learners to learn material in self-paced manner under Vision-Aid supervision.

During the pilot phase the Vision-Aid Online Academy programs will be geared towards the staff of blind schools in a "train-the-trainer" paradigm, so as to have the maximum impact and reach.

Thank you to our Event Sponsors
Kannan and Balasubramaniam Family
Prameela Devadas
Sujatha and Prabakar Devadas
Virginia and Sudha Kota
Ujwal and Kaustubh Phene
Meruka and Vissa Ramamoohan
Fartaneh Ablari and Virekanand Rau
Pratima and Venkat Subrahmanian

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors
Kamlesh and Puran Dang
Dr. Mukunda and Siva Dogiparthi
Raman Foundation
Jayanthi and Kanthi Ghatraj
Anuradha and Prachanat Palabhrati
Nalini and Raj Sharma
Sanjay Thakkar and family
Sunita Tuli and family
SPS Alfieix

Plant Your Future Early

The importance of education today is undeniable. Are you prepared for what it costs?

To learn more about how you can secure your child’s college education funding

Sanjay Thakkar, MBA
Agent New York Life Insurance Company
Sanjay Thakkar, Inc.
3142 W. 140th St., Bessemer, MN 55031
Call: (763) 969-7777
Email: s.thakkar@nyplifef.com
Web: www.sanjay-thakkar.com
July 2014

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I send warm greetings as you gather for this year's Vision-Aid fundraiser: The Dancer's Pledge Ball.

For seven years, Vision-Aid has provided rehabilitation services worldwide to the visually impaired in under-served areas. Its free programs and services to low-income communities include vision enhancement and rehabilitation, computer training, school screening camps, technology development and education initiatives. Vision-Aid's programs help blind and low vision people reach their full potential.

I thank Vision-Aid and its volunteers for the incredible work you do. Please accept my best wishes for a successful and fun evening.

Sincerely,

DEVALL, PATRICK
GOVERNOR
The Dancer’s Pledge, a unique dance musical based on the<br>prolific novel by the epic author, Amarakali Kalki. The songs,<br>scenery, dialogues, costumes designing, casting and tech-<br>nical supervision is by Naya Perazau Madhuini. R. Murdilad-<br>ran, who has conceptualized and directed over 21 ballets<br>including: Ramayanaam, Nam Alvar, Thirumangai Alvar,<br>Tuhkva Nachiar, Soora Saenhabam, Anarkali, Krishna,<br>Shilapathigaram and Sene Beyond, that showcase over 50<br>dancers and theatre artists. Leading musicians like Enbar<br>Kannan, Rajesh Vaidya, Sjmanak, and Kalpara amongst<br>others, have contributed to the rich musical score of these<br>productions. Following the astounding success of these<br>productions worldwide including, USA, UK, Canada,<br>Australia and New Zealand, Guru Murdiladaran joins forces<br>with Mridangan visai, Sri D.A. Srinivas in setting the music<br>and launching this magnum opus – Sivagamiyin Sabadham.

The struggle for supremacy between the Chalukya Emperor<br>Pushkri II, a ruthless and barbaric king, and the Pallava<br>Emperor Mahendra Pallavar, a connoisseur of arts and later<br>his son, Narasimha Pallavar, forms the background for this<br>novel. The story predominantly revolves around art, honor,<br>love and jealousy. Sivagami, the daughter of Ayuran Srigi, the<br>royal sculptor, is the dancing treasure of the Pallava King-<br>don, which is also known for its rock-cut sculptures that<br>stand even today at Mamallapuram, a few kilometers from<br>Chennai. The writer portrays Sivagami as the embodiment<br>of beauty and grace, and her dance as the pinnacle of artistic<br>expression in human form that can overthrow empires. Siva-<br>gami, however, is unaware of the power her persona wields.<br>The story revolves around the love between Sivagami and<br>Narasimha Pallavar, the crown prince and sole heir to the<br>Pallava dynasty. Emperor and father Mahendra Pallavar<br>believes that a king’s duty lies first to his country, and advises<br>Sivagami and his son to pursue their love. Nagamanthi,<br>the trusted aid and twin brother of Emperor Pushkri of<br>Vatapi, is a Buddhist monk who is also beloved by Sivagami.<br>He plots to overthrow the whole Pallava kingdom and win<br>over Kanchi, its capital, for his brother, and secure Sivagami<br>for himself and imprisons her in the city of Vatapi. This<br>mindless passion he has for Sivagami’s art more than her<br>corporate body is the force that makes the story compelling.<br>Sivagamiyin Sabadham is a seamless blending of history<br>and imagination by Amarakali Kalki. While Mahendra and Nara-<br>simha Pallavar, Paranathji, Pulikesi, Thirumavankarar and<br>several other characters existed in the history of India, the<br>other characters are a vivid fragment of this wizard’s imagina-<br>tion. The surrounding of Kanchi by Pulikesi, Narasimha<br>Pallavar’s attack and burning down of the city of Vatapi took<br>place in history and has been woven into this intriguing tale.

The story begins with King Narasimha Pallavar, who is deter-<br>mined to rescue his lover Sivagami from his arch enemy, the<br>Chalukya King Pulikesi. The timeless epic unfolds scene-by-<br>scene through a tale filled with intrigue and drama. Nara-<br>simha Pallavar’s earlier attempt to try to rescue Sivagami was<br>rejected by her since Sivagami, who is selfless and generous,<br>takes a pledge to not make her escape with her lover, while<br>leaving behind so many of her fellow captives suffering in the<br>city of Vatapi. She even agrees to the unreasonable demands<br>by her captors to dance for them, so that they will spare her<br>suffering fellow hostages. She takes a pledge to remain as a<br>captive until her lover, Narasimha Pallavar comes with his<br>army to rescue all those who have been held as captives, and<br>to burn down her captor’s city, Vatapi, to the ground. Years go<br>by and Sivagami repents sending him away and awaits his<br>return hopefully. She is unaware that after his father’s death,<br>Narasimha Pallavar fulfills his royal duty by marrying Queen<br>Vanamala Devi.

Narasimha Pallavar and his army, led by his brave<br>Commander-in-Chief Paranathji (who had once rescued<br>Sivagami and Ayuran from an attack by a charging mad<br>elephant), descend on Vatapi like a tsunami. A great war<br>ensues and Narasimha Pallavar avenges his father’s death,<br>and frees Sivagami and all the other captives, by killing<br>Pulikesi, and setting fire to the city of Vatapi. Emperor Naras-<br>simha Pallavar parades around Kanchi accompanied by his<br>wife and two children on a victory procession. In a final twist<br>at the end, when Sivagami witnesses this, it dawns on her<br>that things will never be the same between her and Nara-<br>simha Pallavar. Sivagami, who had once danced to a popular<br>song (pathikam) of Thirumavakarar (that dwell on the intense,<br>emotional state of love that the devotee feels for the<br>Lord), but secretly vowed emotional allegiance not to Shiva,<br>but to her lover, Narasimha Pallavar, now urges her father,<br>Ayuran to get her married, not to any mere mortal but to<br>Lord Ekambareswarar himself. She dedicates her art and life<br>at the feet of Lord Ekambareswarar as her lover Narasimha<br>Pallavar looks on.

Weston Loan Group, LLC

Peter E. DeLea

Please call 781-264-8833 or email peter@wloan.com

For a free mortgage rate quote!

Weston Loan Group, LLC is a licensed mortgage broker in Massachusetts. Weston Loan Group, LLC is committed to helping you find the right mortgage product for your needs. We understand that every borrower is different, and we offer a variety of products to meet your individual requirements. We make the process of securing a mortgage simple and straightforward by offering you the latest in financial tools that enable you to make sound financial choices. Give us a call today to discuss your options and start saving money!

We can assist you on your next New Home Purchase or the Refinace of your home!

We can arrange the right mortgage product for you:
- Fixed Rate Mortgages for 30, 25, 20, 15, and 10 years (also any term such as 27 year fixed)
- Adjustable Rate Mortgages for 5/1, 7/1, 10/1 and a new 15/1 ARM
- Home Equity Lines of Credit

Weston Loan Group, LLC can also arrange mortgages for you with No Points & No Closing Costs.

Please contact Peter E. DeLea MLO# 18755 today for details!

781-264-8833
peter@wloan.com

Weston Loan Group, LLC currently arranges but does not make loans.
With Best Compliments from
ROYAL INDIAN BISTRO!

Welcome to ROYAL INDIAN BISTRO!

Royal Indian Bistro is a family owned restaurant and bar in the heart of Massachusetts serving authentic Indian cuisine in a pleasant, upbeat environment. We take great pride in delivering only the freshest ingredients and quality spices as would be done in a traditional Indian home.

We have worked hard to offer a menu that marries traditional and contemporary dishes. Both meat and vegetarian dishes from north to south is available in house. We take pride in each of our vegetables and desert concoctions and also cater to the foodies who prefer their dishes "sourced".

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

Tantric India Bistro greets music and dance lovers attending THE DANCER’S PLEDGE To benefit Vision-Aid

On your next visit to Boston, welcome to Tantric India Bistro

We are located in the heart of Boston’s Theatre District

Awaken your senses with the delicacies of regional Indian cuisine and fine wines from our bar in an intimate setting

Tantric India Bistro
123 Stuart Street, Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617-367-8742
Visit us at www.tantricbistro.com

Gift cards are available upon request

Accepting New Patients!
Accepting All Major Insurances!
Schedule your appointment today!

Dr. Mukunda Dogiparthi 603-459-8127
www.sterlingsmilesofnashua.com

76 Northeastern Blvd., #29B  Nashua, NH 03062
For many decades, the blind on the move have been dependent on a long white cane or staff tapping it on hard objects to detect obstacles and trying to avoid them. Many times they had to “call out” to get cooperation from traffic and persons around.

However, today’s crowded environs offer less personal space to move around for a vision-impaired person using a conventional long cane. Most times, in buildings, vehicles and venues, conventional cane cannot be used without the possibility of hurting others or damaging delicate and fragile items around.

“Vision Wand” by Vision Aid
Light weight, small, low cost, simple, reliable, not long or sharp, remote (non-contact) probing, detecting and alerting on objects and obstructions, make it a friendly and useful device to help the blind become more mobile.

Its low cost replaceable battery (single AA battery) helps to keep the weight low (under 250g). Its short length (500mm), non-metallic shutter-drop, splash proof body (made from UPVC), “slip-proof” grip (by wrist strap) make it easy to carry and handle. An under-the-thumb switch runs on the device easily and users are alerted (with vibrater under the palm) and an obstruction alert (beeper), making it a handy device with optimum range (1.5 m from user body with a beeping alert).

Let the gift of light bring dignity, respect and independence.

With best compliments

Bengalees of New England
(http://b-ne.org)
of fire with Smt. Jasmine Shah, and is passionate about all types of dance forms.

Priya Venkatesh, a rising senior at Acton Boxborough Regional High School, is a Bharatanatyam dancer who completed her Arangetram in October 2013 under the tutelage of Smt. Jeyanthi Ghattaja. Priya also enjoys alpine skiing, karate, and playing the piano.

Ranjini Saigal is the director of the Eastern Rhythms dance school in Burlington, MA. Her students have won National Awards and she has received wide acclaim for her productions on DNA, Ramayana and Savitri. She is a co-founder of Lokvani.com, co-chair of TIE-SE, Executive Director of Ekal Vidyayala on the board of many organizations.

Sheethal Dwarsika is a performer, teacher and founder of “Sowparnika School Of Dance” in Nashua, NH. She had her training in Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam from Smt. Shyamala Sreendran (Dharani School Of Performing Arts). She is also training under Guru Muralidharan and has performed in India and US for many cultural and charitable programs.

Shilpa Narayan completed her arangetram in August 2013 under Guru Jeyanthi Ghattaja. She continues to learn from Guru Sojaitha Meyyappan. Additionally, she has been learning Carnatic music from Guru Tara Anand and is joining University of Connecticut this fall.

Shirin Bakre is learning bharathanatyam for 8 years and has a passion for dance, and many other activities and sports. She was recognized as Miss Teen India New England 2013. Shirin is joining as a freshman in high school this year.

Shevani Balaji is a Bharatanatyam dancer who completed her Arangetram under the tutelage of Ms. Neha Parikh in 2012. She has performed in many cultural programs and won various dance competitions. She will be a junior in Merrimack High School this fall.

Shrutika Raju has trained in Bharathanatyam for several years under Guru Smt. Sojaitha Meyyappan and completed her Arangetram in July 2013. She has performed in various competitions and cultural programs, and is a rising senior at Austin Preparatory School.

Sriviya Nataraaj Moorby is the director of Abhinaya Natya Sala (“Abhinatya”) in Framingham, MA. In 1999, driven by a conviction that dance should be a lifelong pursuit for anyone with interest, she co-founded MIT Natya, one of the first collegiate Indian classical dance organizations in the nation and strives to instill self-confidence through performance.

Suja Meyyappan is an acclaimed Bharatanatyam Dancer, Choreographer and the Artistic Director of Kalam Academy of Dance. She has produced several shows (Shivoham, Bharathy Natyam), has been part of many fund-raisers including VisionAid events since 2009. An active member of the Tyngsboro Cultural Council, she is passionate about serving the community.

Trisha Kagalavadi is training in Bharatanatyam under the tutelage of Guru Smt. Sojaitha Meyyappan. She has performed in various cultural events and competitions in the New England area. Trisha will be a sophomore at Westminster Academy this fall.

Tiwsha Mohapatra is a Bharatanatyam dancer. She is going to complete her Arangetram next summer under the guidance of Guru Kalpana Balachander. She has participated in many cultural programs and is a rising sophomore in Winchester High School.

Valli Murthukuruppan, a rising freshman at Nashua High School North, is a Bharatanatyam dancer training under Guru Neha Parikh and a member of IANH and NETS. She has participated in Bharatanatyam & Bollywood dance programs and won dance competitions.

Thank you to our Bala Dancers
Ananya Kumar, Anika Kaglavadai, Arjana, Aparna Shambhugam, Divyashri Prasath, Janani Shambhugam, Jeyasekithi, Kairaa S Balaraman, Karva Vijayakumar, Layla Raji, Praveen, Preethi Mahendrakumar, Rusha Jeyaram, Sefali Baker, Shiraan, Shreyas DevaRajas, Shrindhi Jeyaram, Shiriya AnandKumar, Solai Alageppan, Shruthi Ramesh, Swathi Kannan, Swetha, Tarika Sridhar, Vaideli Moorby

Our sincere thanks to
Videography: Saravanan Meyyappan (meyyappan@gmail.com), Anand Krishnan Peravangara (anand.keral@gmail.com) and Nara Narayan (nara.narayan@gmail.com) 
Photography: Kannan Kathiresan (kkannan@yahoo.com), Jeyakumar Sathyamoorthy (jayakKay@hotmail.com)
Choreography & Production

Madurai R. Murudhiran is a well-known performing dancer, dance-guru, composer, and musician, who has composed over 120 varnams, produced several dance dramas, composed Pushpanjalis, Akalipus, Jathiswarams, Mallatis, Varnams and Thillanas in all the 35 thalams and Jathiswarams in all 72 Mela-kartha ragas—unprecedented in the field of Bharata Natyam. His musical compositions, over the years have travelled the length and the breadth of the world.

The Performers

Anandini Chandrasekhar, daughter and disciple of “Bharata Kala Shrestha” Sudha Chandrasekhar, has also trained under Sri Rajarajeswari Bharata Natya Kalamandir family. She teaches in Newton, MA, choreographs for Hindu Temple Rhythms, learns music from Smt. Deepthi Naravasa, & performs with Bollywood band ‘Din Check’.

Ananya Venkatesan, a rising freshman at Nathua High School South, is learning Bharata Natyam under the direction of Ms. Neha Parikh of Nirbhayaka Dance Academy. She has done many dance performances in temples, and various cultural events.

Chetna Ayyagari has been learning Bharatanatyam for many years under Smt. Sujatha Meyyappan. She has performed in many cultural events in the New England area and will be an eighth grader this fall.

Deepa Rajanam is the artistic director of Srilaya school of dance in Stoughton, MA. A biomimetician by profession, her passion for dance has led her to participate in many dance productions for charitable causes. She believes in innovation in dance while upholding the tradition of bharathanatyam dance style and its values.

Harini Raghavan enjoys teaching bharathanatyam and learning various other dance forms. She has performed in more than 100 shows in India and abroad in various dance styles. She is pleased to be joining the Vision Aid team at this year’s show.

Hema Iyengar is a Bharatanatyam teacher and founder of “Nityaa Anjali School Of Dance” in metro west area. She has learnt dance under the guidance of various gurus in India, including Madurur Murudhiran. She has participated in past Vision-Aid productions like “Krishna” and “Sitaladikaram” and has also performed for many other non-profits in the area.

Jawzi Dogra, a rising freshman at Bishop Guertin High School, is very grateful for her training under Guru Sheethal Dwarka and plans to have her arangetram next summer. She has participated in many cultural events and won awards in several competitions.

Jeyanthi Ghatraju is a Bharata Natyam dancer and choreographer with a mission to perform for the underprivileged. She has been a Co-Producer of Vision-Aid dance productions since 2009. Several students have performed their arangetrams under her guidance. Jeyanthi offers Certificate, Associate, Diploma and Degree Programs in Performing Arts through her affiliation with Alagappa Performing Arts Academy.

Kalaimangai Saravanan, founder of Amudhari Dance School is a student of guru Vaidividhevi in the Kalakshetra style. She trains her students in Shrewsbury and Crafton areas, and has won awards for her performances. She has been in most of the major dance festivals in India like Chithirambaram dance festival, the Spirit of Dance in Ujjain, Natataljharu festival of Thanjavur etc.

Karthikeyani Mahendrakumar, a rising Junior at Bishop Guertin High School, has performed in various cultural events under the guidance of her guru Smt. Sujatha Meyyappan, who has been a constant source of inspiration for her and sparked a passion for Bharatanatyam.

Kavyalakshmi Murudhiran is a child prodigy, performing from the tender age of 2. She performed her arangetram when she was just 8 under the guidance of her parents – Gurus. Madurai R Murudhiran and Smt. Chitra Murudhiran. She has toured all over the world and given solo and group performances, and featured at premiere dance festivals and sabhas.

Manu Gummadi is a Bharata Natyam dancer, who will be completing her arangetram in July 2015, under the guidance of Smt. Kalpana Balachander. She is a rising freshman at Lexington high school. She has performed in several dance programs and cultural events.

Medha Paloni, a rising senior at Westford Academy, has been training for six years with Smt. Jeyanthi Ghatraju. She is a passionate dancer, has performed in several dance performances and is eagerly looking forward to participating in a show benefitting Vision-Aid.

Meghna Kantham, a rising senior at Nathua South High School, is a Bharata Natyam dancer who has been training under the guidance of Smt. Sujatha Meyyappan. She has performed at various cultural events, competitions and charity events, including Vision-Aid dance shows.

Meyya Murtha completed her Arangetram in September 2013, under the tutelage of Guru Smt. Thenu Rajaji. In addition to her passion for dance, she volunteers over summers at Boston Children’s Hospital and will be attending University of Waterloo in Ontario this fall.

Monica Manickam completed her arangetram in July of 2011, under Guru Ranjani Saiag. She is joining Cornell University in the fall, majoring in chemical and biomolecular engineering. She has performed in many fundraising events including past Vision-Aid shows.

Nikita Minocha, a rising senior at Brooks School in North Andover, MA, completed her Arangetram in August 2013, under the tutelage of Guru Ranjani Saiag. She has been in many Vision Aid fundraisers and other events over the past ten years to benefit the community.

Neha Pillai, a recent graduate from Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School in Marlborough MA, is a Bharatanatyam dancer who completed her Arangetram under the guidance of Jeyanthi Ghatraju in 2012. She also completed the certificate course in bharatnatyam from Alagappa Performing Arts Academy and will be joining University of Connecticut in the Fall.

Nisha Pillai, a rising freshman at Advanced Math & Science Academy in Marlborough, has been learning Bharatanatyam under Guru Jeyanthi Ghatraju, while also continuing with Guru Sheethal Dwarka. She enjoys writing, painting and working with kids.

Niveditha Ramesh completed her Arangetram in June of 2010, as a student of Smt. Sridevi Ajayi Thirumalai. She is a rising junior at Tufts University, majoring in Biopsychology, and is co-captain of Tufts Pulse, an award winning dance team at Tufts University.

Pallavi Nagesh is a Bharatnatyam dancer and teacher at the RasaRang School of Performing Arts. She is also the Artistic Director of Meru Education Foundation, an organization unique learning programs based on the languages, arts and culture of India. Pallavi’s passions include theater. She is a prolific writer for local Indian news media.

Poojitha Jonnavithula, a rising sophomore at Acton Boxboro Regional High School, is a Bharatanatyam dancer learning from Smt. Jeyanthi Ghatraju. She started dancing at the age