

pStory behind starting Mantha's REACH Foundation. Grateful acknowledgments to RajKamal Electronics, Hyderabad, India

On the night of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008, I (Srinivas Mantha) was doing some academic work at my home. I received a phone call. The person on the other side introduced herself as Ms. Monali Chowdhary, heroine of Happy Days (a telugu movie hit of 2007) congratulated me for winning a bumper lottery. She further continued that one of the coupons resulting from purchase of some item from an electronic shop. I could not hear the name of the shop clearly. I thought some mischievous people were trying to fool me as I did not recall purchasing any electronic item in that recent past. I bluntly replied to her that she reached a wrong number. She said that the coupon contained my name and phone number which she drew from lakhs of coupons. in public in Hari Hara Kalabhavan, auditorium. At this point I recalled that I did purchase an air conditioning system from a RajKamal electronics outlet in Ameerpet, Hyderabad in the month of November. I was given 20 coupons to write my name and phone number and drop them in a box. The heroine asked as to what I would with that money. I replied that I am doctor by profession and would revert a part of the money for good cause. Management of RajKamal Electronics (Mr. Kamlesh Shah and Mr. Rajesh Shah) then took over the phone from her and congratulated me.



In the ensuing weeks, several things came to my mind to keep up the promise of reverting a part of money towards a generous cause. I recalled my ancestors (great grandfather Mr. Mantha Suryanarayana, lawyer by profession, of Vijayanagaram district in Andhra Pradesh who was generous enough to have a street by the name Mantha vaari vedhi (Mantha's Street). He showed his generosity by donation for free education, food and shelter for thousands of students in late 1890s. My grandfather, Mantha Lakshmana Murthy and my father Mantha Suryanarayana were generous in mind but were limited by small resources. My grandfather was a mathematician and first student of Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India and has authored first book on calculus from the country. My father was a Professor of Physics in Osmania University and a great researcher in ultrasonics.

Perhaps the genes that I inherited made me think in terms of starting a charitable trust. I discussed the issue with Dr. Sudha Lakshmi (my better half)-cardiologist , Dr. Shashi Kumari, - Gynecologist, Dr. Nalini Yadala, - Radiation Oncologist, Dr. Vibhavari Naik – Anesthesiologist. They readily agreed and the trust formation was initiated. Dr. Shashi and Nalini were my classmates in MBBS and I could recognize their skills in organization and public relations during our reunion of MBBS classmates in 1997. Dr. Vibha was instrumental in recommending Rajkamal electronics and helping me in procuring the lucky item and preserving the coupons. She was my obvious choice for treasurer of the trust. We named the trust as Mantha’s REACH foundation to support **Research, Education and Community Health. REACH is an acronym to reflect the objectives of the trust. Our motto is “Reach right people for the right cause”. Preparation of trust deed, registration, and clearance from other statutory authorities took some time and the activities of the trust were commenced in the beginning of 2010. We designed our management to achieve our objectives while satisfying our motto in a transparent manner.**

I take this opportunity to thank management of RajKamal electronics (Mr. Kamlesh Shah and Mr. Rajesh Shah ) for timely disbursement of money after the due statutory deductions. As a mark of our gratitude to RajKamal, we made sure to include letter “R” in our logo which alternatively was intended to reflect our objectives.



Of course, R also stands for REACH and Roizen. Dr. Michael F Roizen, my mentor and guide in USA who known for his outstanding research and concern for community health especially that related to “RealAge”. Dr. John Ellis, Anesthesiologist-USA and Dr. Joseph Foss Anesthesiologist-USA were also instrumental in my development in academic writings. Four of us jointly authored several scientific articles.

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My acknowledgments would be incomplete without inclusion my parents (father late Prof. Mantha Suryanarayana and my mother M. Vanaja) and my siblings: sisters (Girija and Aruna) and brothers (Bhasker and Venkat) who contributed in variety of ways to my overall development my generous thoughts. My better half, Sudha was very supportive in every endeavor that I contemplated. Lastly, my due acknowledgments are for Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, India, especially Dr. Prasada Rao, Director. NIMS gave me official clearance be a trustee of the Foundation.

As of June 2010, five trustees constitute REACH trust management supported by 3 advisors viz; Mr. I.D. Prasad of Hyderabad specialized in enterpreneurship development, Dr. Purnima Dhar, Anesthesiologist from New Delhi, and Dr. Suresh Reddy of Houston, Texas, USA specialized in palliative medicine. We are fortunate to have several well wishers including Dr. T. Ramesh Kumar, Dr. Liza Rajasekhar and Dr.

Rukmini Mridula from NIMS, to name a few. Mr. J. Umesh Kumar, Ms. R.Padmalatha, and V. Rajya Lakshmi of NIMS volunteered to undertake several activities of the trust. Auditing of our accounts is being handled by Raju & Prasad, Amrutha Hills, Punjagutta, Hyderabad.

- As of June 2010, our major contributions include the following:
- Support to set up of day care center at Sundernagar (Erragadda, Hyderabad) to facilitate scientifically oriented functional rehabilitation of patients with memory disorders (Alzheimer's disease). This is first of its kind in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India. The picture of day-care center is shown below



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- Donation of phototherapy unit for neonatal intensive care unit at Gandhi General Hospital, Hyderabad. The unit will help to treat newborn babies with jaundice. Most babies would completely recover with such treatment



I sincerely hope that with continued efforts of trustees supported by our advisors, well wishers and volunteers, we will be able accomplish our objectives effectively.

Srinivas Mantha  
3rd June 2010