

An Inspired Initiative – The Laxmi Raghunath Medical Foundation

Dear Friends,

Many times a day I realize how much my life is dependent upon others around me and how I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. It is a sacred value I have imbibed from my grandparents – Laxmi Raghunath Apte and Raghunath Balkrishna Apte. A value that lies at the plinth of the Laxmi Raghunath Medical Foundation (LRMF) I set up in 1996, in their fond memory.

They led a long and fulfilling life devoted to bringing up a happy family, living with honesty, integrity and simplicity, while giving support to worthy social causes. My grandfather was on the board of trustees of many charitable institutions – for instance, the Phadke Mandir in Girgaum, Mumbai and Parvati Devasthan and Tilak Smarak Mandir at Pune. He was an entrepreneur who lived by his conviction – that the power of money is the power to give. Complementing his nature, was my grandmother – no needy person who approached her returned without receiving succor.

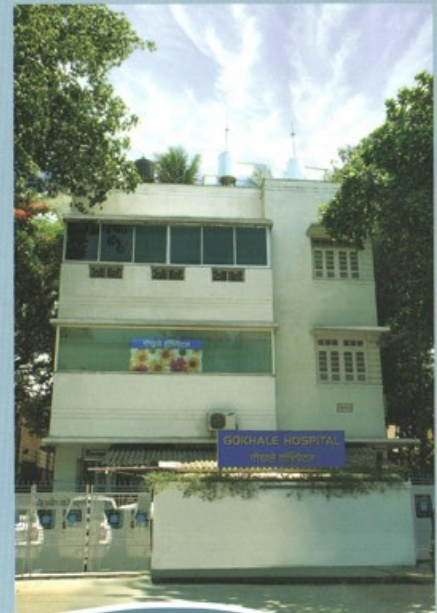
LRMF is my humble attempt to live up to their ideals which, I am aware, are far too tall.

One cannot always be a hero; but one can always be human.

Being an orthopedic surgeon with a well equipped hospital, I decided to start LRMF with the modest aim of running an OPD, offering free medicines and consultations to needy orthopedic patients. Dr. Abhijit Joshi, my nephew, who is an orthopedic surgeon, has been helping me from beginning. A year later, free surgeries were added on, followed by free distribution of medical aids such as crutches and walkers.

It would be germane to state here, that 'free' services are in no way compromised on quality. The infrastructure, the equipment and the approach of doctors and the staff is the same for all patients.

LRMF also publishes informative literature to generate awareness amongst people to prevent health related problems by early intervention.... Prevention is, after all, better than cure.



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The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.

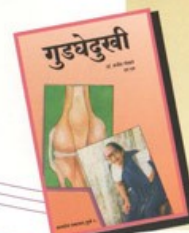
The response to these initiatives has been very positive and heartening. Many well wishers, including those from the medical fraternity have extended their active and invaluable support to LRMF and its activities. There is no dearth of people willing to give of themselves for a worthy cause. This has reinforced my belief in humane values in an era where cynicism corrodes our positive thoughts and ideals are sacrificed at the altar of 'practicality'. I consider myself truly blessed to have philanthropists such as yourselves contributing their might to this crusade.

Real generosity to the future is to give all you can to the present.

It is this belief, that prefaces all initiatives at LRMF. There is no attempt to build an impressive corpus fund to dip into. The key word is 'Now'. This time, like all times is perfect to do a good deed... and no amount too small.

Donations can be made in memory of your near and dear ones; to sponsor a surgery partly or entirely; or bear the cost of an implant... any which way you want. We will ensure your contributions are used for a worthy cause. LRMF serves as a conduit to direct it to the truly needy patients. Should you want to meet your beneficiary, that can be arranged as well.

There is hope yet. God willing, I intend to continue to offer my services to the society, which has given me so much to thank for.



Dr. Sanjeev Gokhale
Managing Trustee



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“Everybody can be great.
Because anybody can serve.
You don't need a college
degree to serve. You don't
have to know about Plato and
Aristotle... or Einstein's theory
of relativity... or the second
theory of thermodynamics in
physics, to serve. You only
need a heart full of grace.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Activities undertaken at the Laxmi Raghunath Medical Foundation (LRMF)

- LRMF has been holding a charitable OPD every Thursday afternoon since 1997, where, about forty to fifty orthopedic patients are examined. X-rays are taken at a discounted rate, while prescribed medications are given free.
- Surgeries of needy patients are performed free – including material expenses, medical consultation and surgical fees. Twelve such major surgeries are now done each year.
- Periodic camps are held for checking osteoporosis amongst elderly patients.
- Free orthopedic educational literature is distributed to the patients.
- All needy patients are given free orthopedic aids such as crutches, walkers, etc.
- Camps are held outside Pune for free orthopedic consultations.
- Donations to LRMF are covered under 80-G of Income-Tax act which extends an exemption of 50% to all donors.



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