

# 'Walk and Run' raises \$25,000 for hospital

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

THE 5K/10K Walk and Run organized by the Sankara Eye Foundation in Silicon Valley on August 26 succeeded in raising over \$25,000 for Sankara Eye Hospital to be constructed in Bangalore, Karnataka.

The event dubbed as "iWalk" was a USA Track & Field (USATF) certified 5K and 10 K Walk/Run and drew over 600 participants, many of them non Indians.

Co-Coordinator Sahitya Onkuri and Manjlula Jonnalagadda

said, "We are very pleased with the event. We never imagined that we would be so successful, and the credit goes to the dozen key volunteers and many more who helped in their own way."

Mountain View Vice Mayor Matt Neely and Fremont City Councilwoman Anu Natarajan were the guests of honor at the event.

Just before Mountain View Vice Mayor Matt Neely, flagged off the race, runners massed at the start, raised three cheers for Sankara Eye Foundation.

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Many runners like came specifically for the charity cause. Many of the runners included those who are a familiar sight at various In-

dia-centric charities' walkathons. Several participants included entire families and there were also running teams from workplace etc. who use the race as training runs for upcoming marathons. There were several new participants as well who came for the first time having seen the event listing on web sites catering to runners or just accepting the challenge by colleagues.

Among the participants drawing loud cheers included senior citizen Thangamuthu Swami of San Jose

who along with his wife Selvam finished the 5K Walk/Run in great style. Harish Shetty of Sunnyvale caused a stir as he ran the entire 10K run barefoot. Apparently, Shetty belongs to a growing California movement of "going back to basics", by promoting walking and running barefoot.

The overall winners were: 5K Women's Champ Shanon Castillo (0:26:06); 5K Mens Champion & Overall 5K winner Joseph Pynadath (0:18:39). The 10K Women's winner was Nicole Moscini (0:50:27), and the 10K Men's Champion and Overall 10K winner Kermit Cuff (0:36:27).

## 'Karishma' premiere takes Bollywood to desi crowd

KALYANI VASAN

Hollywood, Calif.

THE Blue 13 Dance Company of Los Angeles presented its world premier of 'Karishma', described by the dance company as an evening of Bollywood dance beneath the stars.



It was a depiction of the eternal love triangle where Shahrukh played by Arun Mathai is pursued by Kajol (Achinta) and Pinky (Poonam Bhargava), followed by a series of dance and music cameos from the latest hits.

The fast paced production featured some outstanding performances from Mathai and Prince Andrew. Though, there was a high degree of accuracy and synchronization in the performances, a certain degree of repetition in the dance steps didn't go unnoticed. The routines of the witch Malice (played by Yolanda Salmeron) and her minions were the most original scores of the performance and stood out for their starkness and interpretation.

'Karishma' captured the quintessence of the second generation desi child, proving that the impact of Bollywood films that they watched with their parents, has definitely cast a huge impression, one that is big enough to become livelihoods to the likes of Achinta. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Achinta said that she, as a Punjabi girl growing up in New York, decided to float a dance company, because "I knew I loved dance and I also know that Bollywood is perhaps the single biggest 'desi' influence of our lives; I also saw it rubbing off on the mainstream and found a ready audience to my mixed style of dance which is so typically Bollywood."

"If 'Karishma' were a typical first generation 'desi' production, it would have featured only desis and perhaps not be based on a Shakespearean work. The fact that this is a product of the second generation mind is visible in the inclusion of talent from all backgrounds—we have South Asians, Caucasians, and African Americans in the cast dancing to Bollywood tunes. This is the new Indian American society that is emerging," commented Ritu Bawa, an attendee at the event.

Andrea, an African American who came to the show with her six-year old daughter said she was exposed to Bollywood by her Indian friends in college. "Besides the lovely costumes and the intricate dance steps, what I love about Bollywood is the storytelling that is done in the songs. Every song is a new story, typically based on the same old story of love, the love triangle, the parental opposition and of course the happy ending, yet it seems like each time a song/dance number is enacted it is brand new."

