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October 4, 2005

'Manoranjani' - Live entertainment program organized by AKKA Charitable Foundation – October 2005

Detroit, Michigan – The ambitious "Manoranjani" charity event conceived with the view of aiding ailing schools in Karnataka, we are proud to inform you, is underway in a grand style. Last Saturday, the first in 13 planned programs, happened in San Jose. It has been declared a success. The sheer quality of the evening's entertainment was something to experience! The audience was spellbound by the singing prowess of Srimati B.R. Chaya; Srimati Sudha Baragur is witty, loquacious and had the hearers in splits; Srimati Shailaja became one with the crowd and helped generate funds; Sri Ramprasad, a native of San Jose until recently, entertained the crowd with his amazing singing; Sri Chandrapani accompanied B.R.Chaya ably on the keyboard. The entire evening's events were strung up to add to about 3 hours, but none wanted to leave. The magical evening lasted four splendid hours. Next day, the treat belonged to Seattle's Kannadigas. These two evenings will undoubtedly set the tone for the rest of the country.

This happens to be one of the most ambitious projects that AKKA has undertaken hitherto, and its sheer magnitude is a testament to AKKA's recent, impressive growth. The remaining 11 evenings should receive an infusion of enthusiasm from the success of last weekend's two programs. It would be amiss of us if we failed to thank Mr. B.V.Jagadish for his generous donation from Kannada Koota of Northern California. Likewise, we are expecting similar generous donations from successful Kannadigas from other parts of the USA.

Kannada Koota Presidents along with the AKKA Directors and AKKA Charitable Foundation Committee members are working very hard to make this charitable event a great success. We have been in constant touch with the artists, travel agents, local kootas, and so on. As planned, the rest of the programs will be staged with an addition of actor Ramesh Arvind in Los Angeles.

The live performances are being performed in 13 cities including San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago, Detroit, Austin, New York, Boston, Washington DC, Charleston, Tampa, Minneapolis.

For the year 2005, the charity theme is **"Educate a Child in Karnataka"**. AKKA is grateful to all these artists who are performing in America FREE OF CHARGE to raise funds for the poor and deserving children in Karnataka. For the first time in the history of Kannada Kootas in North America a combination of Kannada Orchestra and leading film personalities are entertaining Kannadigas.

The collected funds will be used to help non profit organizations in Karnataka who are engaged in helping poor children to get a decent education. AKKA will target the funds towards villages, small towns and slum areas in Karnataka. Funds will be used to provide books, teaching materials, Class room infrastructure, mid day meals, etc. Kannadigas are expected to come forward in large numbers to support this worthy cause. Applications are being received from NGOs in Karnataka with recommendations from Kannada Koota members. These applications will be reviewed and recipients selected. This 'Manoranjani' program is the first of the many programs planned for fund raising. The fund raising efforts will continue through out the year.

Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) is a cultural not-for-profit organization and it represents the Kannada speaking people from Karnataka State, India, who are settled in North America. The Purpose of the organization is to preserve & promote Kannada language, culture

and to undertake charitable work to in Karnataka. AKKA has donated several thousand dollars to many charitable causes including recent Tsunami tragedy.

AKKA was established in 1998 and nearly 30 Kannada Kootas from US and Canada are members of AKKA. There are nearly 70,000 Kannadigas in North America. For more information about AKKA organization, please visit website at: www.akkaonline.org

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