PROJECT PROPOSAL

HOSPITAL BASED PALLIATIVE AND GERIATRIC CARE CENTRE

1. REQUESTING ORGANIZATION:

SAMARITAN HOSPITAL is a 300 bedded health care entity functioning under the patronage of the religious order, Congregation of the Sisters of the Destitute. This hospital was founded in 1969 and is one of the oldest Christian Mission hospitals in Kerala. It caters to the health care needs thousands of people, of which the majority is rural folks.

are managed by ‘Samaritan Medical Care Association’, a registered charitable society constituted by the members of the congregation of the Sisters of Destitute. The hospital/society is also registered with the Income Tax Department under section 12A, which recognizes the non-profit, charitable nature of the organization.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE REQUEST

The project envisages developing a hospital based palliative and geriatric care centre. This centre will be an integral part of Samaritan Hospital yet have its unique identity.

Palliative Care:

Life with an incurable and debilitating disease is often associated with a lot of suffering and pain. In addition to physical problems, such patients usually suffer from social, emotional, financial and spiritual issues caused by the illness. Modern Principles of palliative care can take care of the suffering in patients with incurable diseases and considerably diminish the anguish for the patient and the family.
Modern Palliative care aims to:

- provide relief from pain and other distressing symptoms
- affirm life and regard dying as a normal process with intend neither to hasten or postpone death
- integrate the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care
- offer a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death
- offer a support system to help the family cope during the patient’s illness and in their own bereavement
- use a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counseling, if indicated

2010, as part of the social commitment of the hospital, we launched a community based palliative care unit. Our palliative care team, headed by an inhouse physician who underwent special training at the Institute of Palliative Care, Calicut consists of trained sisters from the hospital. The team responds to requests for house visits and care of the terminally ill. The hospital has set apart two rooms in the hospital exclusively for Palliative care. These rooms and services are made available free of cost at the request of the families of the patients, who would like to bring their patients to the hospital where proper palliative care could be administered under medical guidance.

When the project was launched, the corpus fund was created by the voluntary donation of a day’s salary by all the staff of the hospital. During the last 8 years, the program has been supported by charitable donations raised from well wishers of the program. Over the years, more than 150 patients were provided hospital based services, extending to long periods of hospitalization. While the services of the unit are in demand, we are constrained by space and resources.

The project proposes to build additional in-patient facilities to accommodate the growing demand for palliative service.
Geriatric Care:

The proportion of the elderly in Kerala's population, already the highest in India, is set to go up from 12 percent to 20 percent by 2026. This demographic transition is characterized by increased life expectancy which stands at 74.1 as compared to the national average of 65. The state's ageing population is giving rise to the social and personal problems similar to what an aging westerner has faced.

The program envisages the setting up of geriatric care centre attached to the hospital which will function in close coordination with other medical specialties as well as providing community based geriatric care. The focus would be on the preventive, curative and rehabilitative aspects in the geriatric field.

3. LOCATION & ITS IMPORTANCE

The hospital is located in village Pazhanganad under Kizhakkambalam Grama Panchayat, 10 Km. east of Aluva, the nearest town and railhead and about 25 Km. North-East of Cochin, the nearest port. The hospital serves a rural community spread over 6 Grama Panchayats (local self government bodies) viz., Edathala, Kizhakkambalam, Kunnathunadu, Mazhuvannoor, Vengola and Thrikkakkara.

Samaritan Hospital

4. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target beneficiaries of the project would be the terminally ill and the elderly people in the community, especially the economically marginalized of the society.

5. SERVICES OFFERED BY THE HOSPITAL

As described earlier, Samaritan Hospital is a full-fledged general hospital established with an aim of providing modern medical care at affordable costs. Keeping the hospital as the base, various community health programs are operated. The hospital has a full-fledged, free Pain and Palliative Care unit with trained Physicians to take care of the terminally ill cancer patients in the hospital and at their homes. Teams of doctors and nurses conduct medical and health camps in
association with NGO’s in the villages routinely. The medical and laboratory services are free for the patients in the camps. The hospital participates in the immunization programs of the Health Department on a regular basis. The hospital, in association with the Samaritan College of Nursing, a sister institution located in the same campus, organizes awareness programs in the hospital and in the community. Community visits, especially targeted towards prenatal and anti-natal women are undertaken by teams of nursing students to create awareness among expectant mothers on their health needs.

6. SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MANAGING THE OPERATING EXPENSES

The hospital has no alternative source of funds for managing operating expenses other than funds generated and reinvested by services provided. However, we do receive sporadic funding for specific projects from various sources within the country and from overseas. These projects are often for capital investment in infrastructure development and medical equipment.

7. NO. OF PATIENTS

On an average, the hospital provides medical services to as many as 450 outpatients and about 200 in-patients per day, of which the majority are low-income marginalized people.

8. DEPARTMENTS AND SPECIALITIES

The hospital currently has all the important specialty departments such as General Medicine, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Orthopaedics, ENT Surgery, Dermatology, Psychiatry, Dentistry besides super specialty Departments such as, Urology and Nephrology. The Cardiology and Cardiothoracic surgery departments of the hospital are a separate entity, known as Samaritan Heart Institute, and are located in the same campus.

9. STAFF

The hospital has 27 full time/visiting medical and surgical specialists in various departments, around 120 nursing and paramedical staff, and 20 administrative staff in various categories.
10. IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME

The project implementation would take 6-8 months as it involves structural modifications to existing buildings and substantial rebuilding.

We will be happy if you will be able to help this project. Any amount, even if it is very little will be greatly appreciated.