

## **PRESS RELEASE for May 21<sup>st</sup> VEGESNA FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

The annual fund-raising event on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 in support of Vegesna Foundation, a school for differently-abled children, located in Hyatnagar, Hyderabad, India was a grand success raising over \$20,000. Vegesna Foundation opened in 1988 with the generous support of NRI donors. Starting with 8 physically-challenged children, the school now boasts enrollment of over 500 physically- and mentally-challenged children, and an outreach program deployed in surrounding villages to help poor, destitute children. Sirmani Vamsee Ramaraju who was present at Sunday's event, is the managing director of Vegesna Foundation which offers free education, free food, free surgeries, free prosthetics, and free rehabilitation for differently-abled children. The fund-raising event, co-sponsored by Vegesna Foundation and New Jersey Telugu Association, took place at the Bridgewater Community Center and was a multicultural program which included vibrant local performances from Indian classical and film music schools (should we list these?), Western classical music, and New Jersey Bharathanaytam and Kuchipudi dance schools (should we list these?). The feature presentation by "Madhura Gayaka Mouli " Ramakrishna Yanamandra and Smt. Lalitha Nemana, professional singers from Hyderabad touring on behalf of Vegesna Foundation, stirred up nostalgic remembrances of Sri Ghantasala, while twelve adults enjoyed a fun and exciting game of Anthyakshari conducted by the talented Lalitha Nemana. A children's film song competition was held where young, talented children amazed the judges, Smt. Puttaparthi Nagapadmini (check her name) and Sri Rajeev Nedunuri, with their musical brilliance and flair. Honorable guests who attended the event included Upendra Chivukula and (add

**Director's name**). The atmosphere throughout the evening was filled with an energy which translated into extreme generosity from donors as well as from the young volunteers who hope to be future supporters of Vegesna Foundation. The core organizing committee of the event consisted of individuals who are passionate about the incredible work that is being done by Vegesna Foundation (Smt. Prabha Raghunathan, Smt. Radha Kasinadhuni, Smt. Manju Bhargava (NJTA Secretary), Smt. Usha Kidambi, and Kumari Neha Pannuri). Sunday's event was dedicated in memory of Sri Sambasiva Rao Kasinadhuni.