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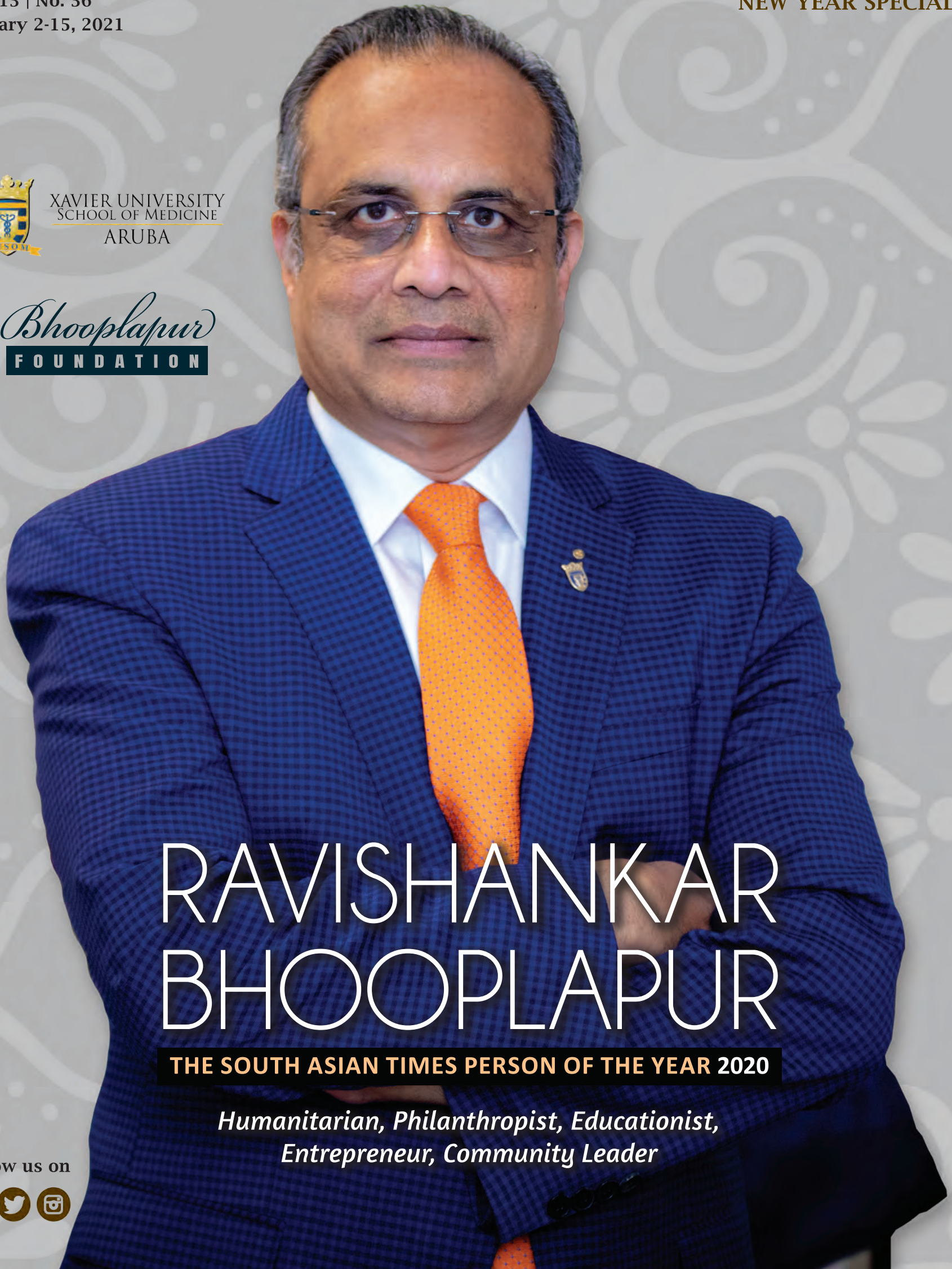
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NEW YEAR SPECIAL



XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
ARUBA

*Bhooplapur*  
FOUNDATION



RAVISHANKAR  
BHOOPLAPUR

THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2020

*Humanitarian, Philanthropist, Educationist,  
Entrepreneur, Community Leader*

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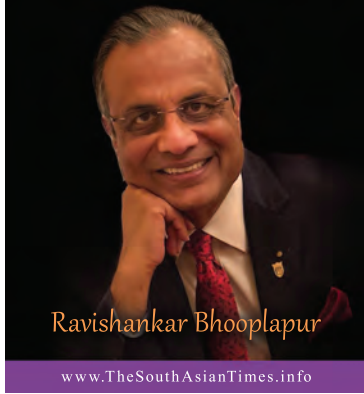
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Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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By Parveen Chopra

The former Chief Justice of India, M.N. Venkatachaliah, has a succinct insight into Ravishankar Bhooplapur. "He is an extraordinary personality, full of a great impersonal love for mankind which has expressed itself in many profound ways and ideas," he wrote in a message to The South Asian Times. Many other key people associ-

*besides many other epithets for you, can one add, 'Institution Builder' after the success of Xavier medical school?*

**Ravishankar Bhooplapur:** After I reached the top in insurance business, I started looking around for enterprises, the whole gamut from real estate to brick and mortar businesses to IT, even delved in some, and even lost some money. This was around the year 2000. From my young adulthood, I always did something new every 7-8 years - new and different. Actually, I have a focus group of friends who come from different walks of life, like finance, academics, some are wealthy. I learn from them what they do, how they do it and what are the trends. One of the friends asked me what I was doing. I sell insurance, life insurance, I said, and I set up pension plans. When asked

invited me to it. There we met Neil Simon, President of Antigua medical school. He enlightened me about the supply and demand in healthcare, especially doctors. He said there's a need for a few medical schools if they're properly set up. I traveled with him many times, discussed all this in detail. I thank him for giving me much insight into medical schools and even today I discuss with him and take his advice. I spent 5 years before I jumped in to Xavier at Aruba.

One good thing about me is, if I like something, I dig deep into it and what I found confirmed my abilities and the need of setting up a good medical school. But institution building is a six lane highway - you have to keep to the speed. What I mean is, you can have a beautiful building, but without good quality academicians, and a good curriculum, or a good island

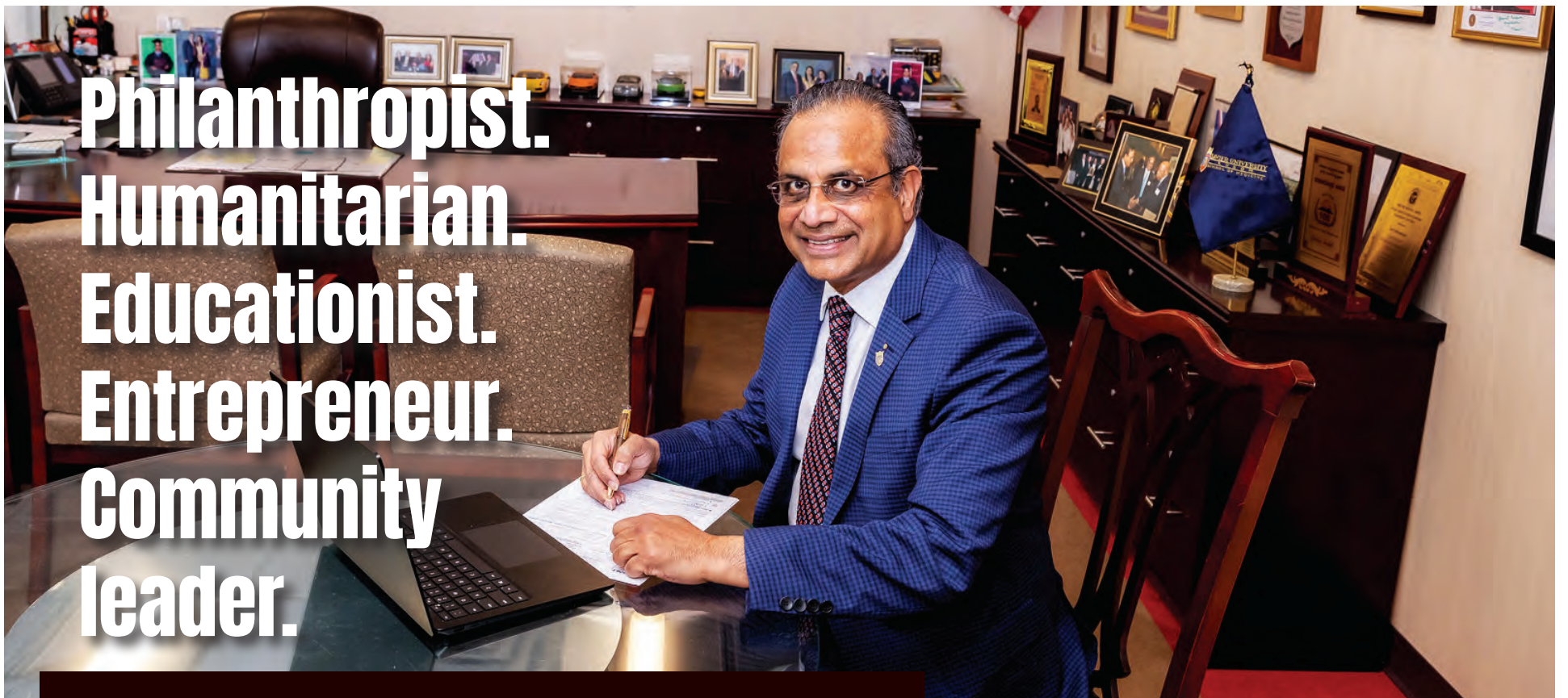
in the last 13 years, getting all the required accreditations. Ours is the only school in the Caribbean which has right now three accreditations approved by WHO as well as accepted by the NCFMEA & Department of Education in Washington. I was also fortunate to have good board members, mentors and I can give a lot of credit to Dr Bhat, Dr Prahalad, and Dr Kota as well as Chairman Edwin Casey who were not only with me on this journey but also guiding and helping me in academic matters and clinical matters. Later we set up a team of trustees, who are influential as well as of our kind of mentality. Now we are building a new campus though Covid has delayed it a bit. We are proud that the 1100 doctors graduated from our school are already practicing in the US and around the world, some in very prominent positions. We have currently about

600 students and a staff of about 100. We have pre med programs in Hyderabad and Coimbatore in India. We also started in Ghana.

*Q: Why medical colleges come up in Caribbean islands?*

**Ravi:** It is the proximity to the US. Kids and parents feel safe sending them to Caribbean countries compared to Mexico for example. There is a shortage of doctors and medical schools in America. As per the American Medical Association that controls the number of residencies required for America, 26,500 new doctors are needed every year but US medical schools produce only 21,000 doctors. Opening a medical school takes a long time and huge amount of investment.

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**Philanthropist.  
Humanitarian.  
Educationist.  
Entrepreneur.  
Community leader.**

A versatile and energetic man, Ravishankar Bhooplapur has managed to scale the pinnacle in every field he has chosen to pursue. With exceptional success in Insurance and wealth management consulting, he has now turned a top educationist by creating one of the top 10 medical universities in the Caribbean where students with lesser means too can have their dream fulfilled of becoming a doctor. Yet he finds time for the humanitarian projects, 100s of which he has led globally. Founded by him, Gift of Life (India) has already saved over 6,000 young lives, and recently he became the only South Asian inducted into Rotary's exclusive \$1 Million Legacy Donor Club.

ated with the multifaceted, multi-tasking Ravi also sent us messages of congratulations and acclamations on his recognition as The South Asian Times Person of the Year 2020. They have touched on the magnitude and value of his humanitarian and philanthropic work, and other aspects of his life and personal qualities.

The South Asian Times interviewed the man himself to learn the secret of his success in everything he takes on and his motivations. Some excerpts:

The South Asian Times: So now

about my audience, I said, a majority of them are doctors. He told me then that in America healthcare is a big industry and anything you do with healthcare you'll never go wrong. I considered supplies business but dropped the idea. By that time, I had already launched my online travel insurance website, Easy Medical Insurance, which is doing good till today.

Then an opportunity came that took hold of my mind. At Wyckoff Hospital the CEO and Dr Bhat and his friends were meeting to discuss setting up a medical school integrated with hospital and they

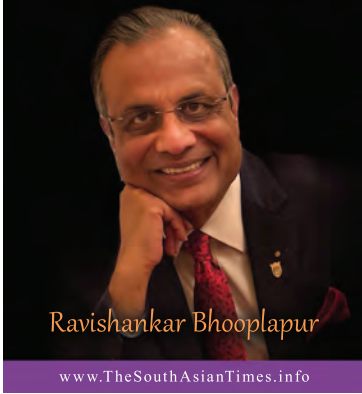
or the location close to the mainland, you cannot have a successful institution in the Caribbean.

But along the way, as we clocked many air miles, there were many false starts and red herrings. But all that gave me valuable experience, building my resolve and confidence. Our search ended with Xavier in Aruba. I decided when devising the detailed business plan that good education also should be affordable. Accreditations are very important. Although people give me credit, it is also teamwork. I'm very proud and happy with what we have accomplished so far



Ellis Island Medal of Honor is made for a multi-faceted, service-oriented man like Ravi Bhooplapur.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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Besides, it is not a money making or profitable venture and there are many legislative headaches.

**Q: What is your secret of success?**

**Ravi:** First is work ethics, also time management. And I go deep into the entire process of the business model. I think ahead what needs to be done today, tomorrow and three months later for a project or institution building. And how do we cultivate good people, how do you groom them and delegate to get the results? Incentives also work. People Xavier are given incentives for the hard work they do, and they are recognized adequately. I also read a lot of books on the industry



Ravi Bhooplapur catching up with Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in Kolkata 2020.

and take advice from experts and learn every day new things.

**Q: Are you influenced by any particular motivational speaker or writer?**

**Ravi:** Dale Carnegie's 'How to Win Friends and Influence People' - a friend of mine, advocate Sam Karanth, presented me this book in 1980. I also attend many of the events like on time management, and by Anthony Robbins and Brian Tracy. I am very detail oriented. Everything I do is written down and very seldom I do anything on ad hoc basis. I read regularly the Harvard Review. I also reach out to the people if I don't know something to get advice and I have multiple people who guide me and advise me to reach an informed decision. I have a lot

of patience and perseverance and I don't give up. In this business when I entered, I realized that everything is accountable, measurable. Everything we do at Xavier is by the book and transparent and reviewed regularly by 3rd party to correct our mistakes if any.

**Q: What keeps you motivated to do more and more?**

**Ravi:** I like to give back. This motivation charges me every day that I am doing good and I am successful at it. At Xavier kids initially are not sure whether they will become doctors. Parents reach out to me and I am accessible to all. I guide parents and motivate students. Initially, it was building an institution but of late I think about giving a good product at a reasonable price, making students work to becoming a doctor and it is gratifying and extremely difficult to express the happiness to see the students graduating.

**Q: You are multitasking, doing so much and travelling a lot at the same time...**

**Ravi:** Mind is conditioned now for me as to how I recharge my-

self. Everyone does one business: come home and the next day back to the grind. Most people's mind works on one side: business, business and business. I break the pattern. When I have free time, I read about motivational and successful people. I also allocate my time for the priorities. I enjoy doing what I want to do. I give Fridays, for example, to do Rotary work, allocating grants. Since I do so much of charity work, almost every week I have a new request, which I analyze and evaluate. I take up ones that are going to help on a large scale, like for Covid, childcare, tsunami, healthcare, education. Something comes up and I immediately jump in - how can I help? I'm very disciplined in my own thoughts and actions.

**Q: What were your major**



Ravi at an event with not one but two Congressmen, Joe Crowley and Tom Suozzi.

**achievements as Rotary governor in 2009-10?**

**Ravi:** All the 535 governors in the world are given an agenda by the Rotary International President every year on what areas should we be focusing on. In my year as Governor, one area was increasing membership. I managed to enlist 25% new members and I was recognized as one of the top 10 districts at the Montreal convention. We also kept the activities in a high gear, people participation was good in all clubs in my district. We groomed many young people aspiring to be leaders, giving them opportunity to become assistant governors.

We established 4 new clubs, two of which are doing extremely well even today: Jericho Sunrise and Hicksville South. I thought at the time that there is so much of our community around here after demographic changes. Rotary is not just meant for white or black people or any color people. Also, a majority of Indians are involved with some kind of charity and Rotary is aware of our generation in India and when we migrated here. To Kamlesh Mehta one day I said, "There's a need and we should start a Rotary club (with South Asian members)" Kamlesh was the charter president (of Hicksville South). We have members from a cross-section; Rotary is not a chamber of commerce only for business people. The ladies club (Jericho Sunrise) started because many promising ladies too wanted to be part of voluntary work, philanthropy work. I'm proud the two clubs have done a million dollars worth of projects. Also, our people have learnt how to work with the mainstream, having the Rotary platform. Plus, leadership qualities are built -- Kamlesh went on to become District Governor a few years after me.

**Q: Are you one of the biggest donors to Rotary?**

**Ravi:** No, let me put it this way,

I was the fourth from the Indian subcontinent to become a Hall of Fame in Rotary in 2004-5, which is the recognition they give to those who have contributed over \$250,000. At the time there were only 40 Hall of Famers in the entire world; now there are 400 plus. I was also made a charter member of the Arch Klumph Society of high donors.

**Q: Can we expect to see you becoming the Rotary International President one day?**

**Ravi:** The way it works in Rotary

is you apply to become a director first, only as director you are eligible to become President. I have a desire to become a director first, after that I will see how things go. Being President of Xavier demands a lot of time. For Rotary it requires 3-4 years of complete dedication.

But yes, I was for three years till recently on Rotary's Investment Committee managing funds of \$1.2 billion.

**Q: What does Gift of Life India do?**

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## Ravi in the \$1 Million Rotary Legacy donor club

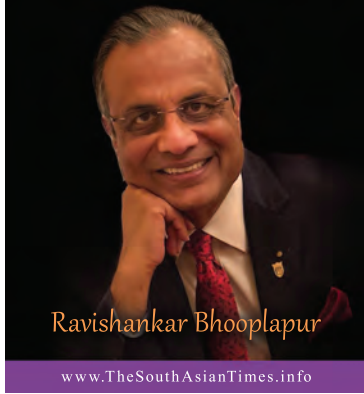
Ravishankar Bhooplapur is the only Indian origin person included in the inaugural list of Rotary Foundation's Legacy Society members, who have made a minimum commitment of \$1,000,000.

The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees unanimously approved last month the formation of the Legacy Society to recognize the dedication and foresight of Rotarians and friends of Rotary who have committed to make a future gift of \$1 million or more to The Rotary Foundation. In a private communication, the Board of Trustees released the

inaugural list of about 50 Legacy Society members, who are predominantly from the United States and Canada. In the list seen by The South Asian Times, Ravishankar-Jayasheela Bhooplapur is the only one donor of Indian origin.







Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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**Ravi:** My biggest success or legacy is Gift of Life India. Gift of Life is a project started by Rotary people from Long Island in 1981, to arrange for heart surgeries for children. As its board member I convinced them to start a Gift of Life India separately. I am its founding chair since 2002. We have done no-cost surgeries and saved the lives of over 6,000 poor kids. The beneficiary kids have been mostly Indian but also from countries in the subcontinent as well as Afghanistan, Iraq. Not only surgeries are free, Gift of Life India also provides for lodging and boarding of each kid and accompanying guardian. We raise money for here and Rotary Foundation gives matching

hometown, Dharwad, where I set up a Rs 45 lakh ICU unit for poor people. I donated about \$10,000 here and we secured CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds through my contacts in India – Grameena Bank in Dharwad and Tata Motors. Now we are expanding, we have received a grant approved to set up an ICU unit with ventilators and all in Kerala for \$378,000. Our Covid related blood bank in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, was inaugurated last month; it is a \$120,000 project in which other Rotary districts also participated.

**Q: You have also been involved with many Indian community organizations here.**

**Ravi:** Yes, I am a life member of the major organizations. I got involved with AIA (Association of Indians in America) when Dr Manvar was its president. We took a lead in raising funds (Rotary gave matching grants) for tsunami and sent to Indonesia and Sri Lanka and India. In Chennai, opposite the rail station we built a public toilets complex and a community center for fishermen. Also raised funds for distribution of AIA's book 'Ananya' on India to Indian missions.

For 9 years I served as trea-



Ravi, accompanied by Rotarian Director Sushil Kumar Gupta, called on the then Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam Azad in 2005 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi to invite him for a Gift of Life event.

ciplined. I worked for AXA for many years and become one of the most successful insurance agents. I set a record selling one single policy to one individual for \$127 million. I also become

a Hall of Fame. Then I quit and started my own brokerage firm Vision Financial Services in 1997 and ran it full steam till about 2012. I still have brokerage but only do existing clients.

**Q: How did your association with SUNY help in setting up the Gandhi Peace Garden.**

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When working for AXA insurance company over a decade ago, he swept all the top awards, like Best Agent, and Hall of Fame.

grants. A normal heart surgery in case of congenital defect costs about \$1000 in India, in America it cost 10 times more.

**Q: What is the biggest achievement of the Rotary movement?**

**Ravi:** Rotary is over a century old premier nonprofit organization in the world, which is a signatory to the United Nations Charter. Rotary's biggest achievement is ending polio around the world, including in Africa now -- it is still there in pockets of Pakistan. In a recent interview about Covid vaccine, Bill Gates mentioned how Rotary harnessed volunteers to administer polio drops.

**Q: Now what are you doing for Covid?**

**Ravi:** When Covid started, I knew things were going to get out of control. So, I started with my

sure for Center for India Studies at Stony Brook after it was founded, and donated about \$35000. I am on the board of a Kannada organization called NAVIKA with 2,500 members and served as its chairman for two years. At Navika, we have established scholarships for students.

For AAPI, when they established the Queens-Long Island Chapter, I was the first one to host a dinner for the young doctors. I was heavily involved with AAPI for their fundraising activities and attended many of their conventions. Actually, most of my clients in the insurance business were Indian American doctors.

**Q: You were very successful in insurance and wealth management...**

**Ravi:** Actually, insurance shaped my life. To flourish in that profession, you have to be very dis-



**Shekhar Mehta**  
President, 2021-22  
Rotary International

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Dear PDG Ravishankar,

I would like to extend my congratulations to Past District Governor Ravishankar & Jayasheela Bhooplapur for "The South Asian Times Person of the year 2020" both are an amazing couple.

My wife and I have known Ravi & Jaya for many years and both are a fantastic, down-to-earth couple. We consider them a true friend to us and the Rotary family. Ravi is a dependable guide and believes in equal access to all communities. He leads by example by raising and donating funds to many worthy causes. Ravi & Jaya are Rotary's **Charter Member of Arch Klump Society member since 2005 and a newly created Legacy Club member by committing 1 million dollars.** We are proud to work and know both dedicated Rotarians as they exemplify Rotary's motto "**Service Above Self.**"

I have seen him in the last 20 years always rising to the occasion and helping when needed whether it is a relief effort, Medical Missions, grants, or in need of a partner or additional funds. Even though Ravi is known to be a globetrotter he is always one phone call away. He is an asset to the Rotary Foundation and many other organizations that he is passionately involved.

My wife, Rashi and I are happy to know Ravi & Jaya. We wish the couple more success and hope god continues to give them strength and good health to continue their journey to help the disadvantaged in the coming years.

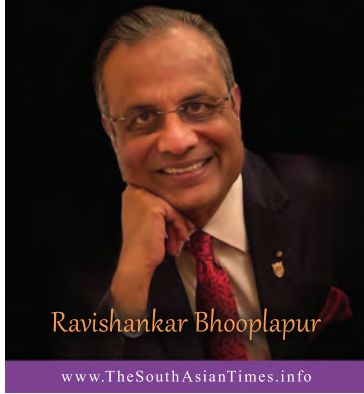
I also congratulate The South Asian Times – for nominating Past District Governor Ravishankar Bhooplapur.

Warm Regards,

Shekhar Mehta

Rotary International President 2021-22





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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**Ravi:** I am one of the 13 trustees in SUNY Old Westbury since 2011. Every year we participate in raising money for scholarships for its low income students, many of them from minorities. I've been donating

personally also. In 2018, Mr Arvind Vora of Shanti Fund approached me as they needed help to establish a Gandhi Peace Garden to celebrate the Mahatma's 150 years. I took the lead in getting approval for almost 50 acres on the campus to establish the garden. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Modi from the United Nations.

**Q: How do you feel getting the Ellis Island Medal of Honor?**

**Ravi:** It is a prestigious award and I feel honored to have received it for the work I have done and to be among recipients who are all very high caliber people. Your immigrant heritage is a requirement for this medal.



SUNY Old Westbury University Leadership Award presented to Ravi by Dr Calvin Butts Jr, President of the University, and Dr Bhupi Patel, Trustee.

**Q: How is the support from your family for your work?**

**Ravi:** Initially, they would caution me why I do so much traveling. Now they know I do what I do. My kids Manali and Amogh help, support in their way. But the big support comes from my wife, Jaya. We discuss what projects we should be doing and we both are aligned in what we do.

Amogh is doing masters in law at Touro law college on Long Island. Manali finished her medical studies and will be joining residency this year.

**Q: How are you inculcating your good qualities in your children?**

**Ravi:** Some qualities they learn by observing us and working with us. They learn that every-



Ravi was presented a special recognition for 25 years of service and commitment to the Masonic Lodge in India.

thing you have to do correctly, diligently, sincerely and honestly, not half-heartedly. Also, be compassionate with other people who are in need. My son Amogh actually went to South Africa for three weeks to volunteer in an

orphanage there. Manali we took to Nicaragua some years ago to work in a burn center for underprivileged kids. Hopefully they'll continue doing the right thing—we have the Bhooplapur foundation set up in USA & India.



Ravi with eminent attorney, Mr Dervinder Singh, Esq

## Messages of acclamation



**B.M. Bhooplapur**  
(Ravi's father)

Karnataka State awardee for Senior Citizen Service

Ravishankar Bhooplapur has been an entrepreneur right from his college days. He was been awarded by the President of India as a Boy Scout. His joining Rotary has groomed him to be a social entrepreneur. While pur-

suage business, he embarked on service through Rotary. 'Service Above Self' is the doctrine he learnt at Rotary. Success comes to those who sacrifice.

### Kiran & Gouri Hiremath Dharwad

True Leaders always practice the three R's: Respect for self, Respect for others, Responsibility for all their actions. Ravi has all those three R's. Congratulations for his nomination by the paper in New York. Growing up, I have seen he is a role model for all our young people in town and even after migrating to USA he never forgot his roots to help his hometown. We are very proud of him and his wife Jaya's contributions to our town.

### Yoyer A. Reyes

First Xavier employee, Student Finance Representative

I have known Ravi since 2007 when he interviewed me and gave me the opportunity to belong to this great institution

called Xavier where I have grown professionally. Ravi taught me that how with effort and dedication goals can be reached.

### Dr Buddhadev Manvar Past President of AIA

There is nobody among people I know more deserving of this honor than him by The South Asian Times. Ravi is truly a multidimensional man, the work he has done for the community and Rotary club reaching the pinnacle. Also, making Xavier a premier medical school, where dreams to become doctors of young people from our community and community at large can be realized at an affordable price.

### Congratulatory Messages Received

Due to space constraints, we could not publish quite a few messages congratulating Ravi Bhooplapur for The South Asian Times - Person of the Year

2020 recognition. Some of those names are listed here:

### Friends & Media

Mohan Wanchoo  
Dr Buddhadev N. Manvar  
Dr Lakshmi Doda  
Varinder Bhalla  
Jay Jasbir Singh  
Mark Zafrin  
Sammy Hsiao  
Mukesh Modi  
Dr A. Aboud  
Roopam Maini  
Dr Ihsan Shanti  
Jagdish Sewhani

### A role model for Xavier staff

Prof Richard Pestell  
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Clinical Dean

Daniel Moses  
Vice President, Finance

Richard M. Pomerantz, MD  
Regional Chairman of Medicine

Barry Cohen Adunmo  
Director of IT Systems

Dr. Jeremy L. Rae  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

Dr. Joseph Jillwin, PhD  
Lecturer - Immunology & Microbiology,

Dr. Patricia Brumley  
Medical Librarian

Dr Jupjeet Kaur  
Chief Compliance officer

Jeanne-Betsy Itrausquin - Mackintosh  
New Student and Immigration Coordinator

Yvette Aal  
Registrar

Dr Kevin Pawlak  
Dean of Pre Med

Dr Prasad





# POWER MOVES

In connection with his work as philanthropist, senior Rotarian and educationist, New York based Ravishankar Bhooplapur regularly girds the globe and has had the privilege of meeting many heads of state and lawmakers over the years. As President of Xavier University School of Medicine (Aruba), he has been responsible for Pre Medical programs in Jordan, Palestine, Ghana, India, and in Turkey.

A few vignettes:



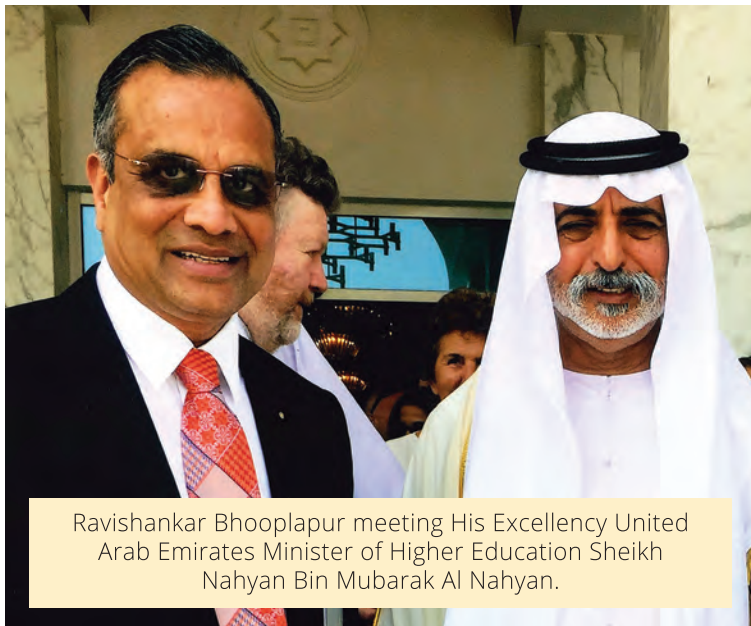
Meeting the former Prime Minister of Aruba, His Excellency Mr Michael Imam



Ravi Bhooplapur, President of Xavier University School of Medicine, which is based in Aruba, meeting with the Caribbean country's Prime Minister, Her Excellency Ms Evelyn Wever-Croes.



Ravi Bhooplapur had a meeting with Prime Minister (2006-15) of Canada, Mr Steve Harper.



Ravishankar Bhooplapur meeting His Excellency United Arab Emirates Minister of Higher Education Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.



Ravi meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan, His Excellency Dr Amin Mahmoud.



Ravi cherishes his meeting with civil rights icon, the late Congressman John Lewis.



Ravishankar Bhooplapur presenting a memento to Hon. Prime Minister of Palestine Mohammad Shtayeh (middle)

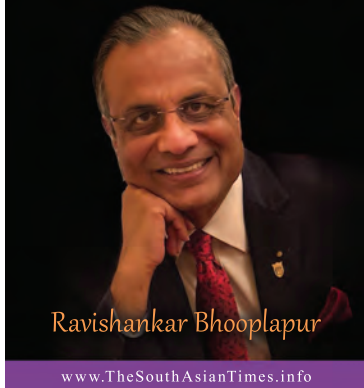


A meeting with Vice President of Ghana Mahamudu Bawumia



Ravi Bhooplapur with New York City Mayor and 2020 candidate for President Bill de Blasio.





# Serving humanity and the community

The indefatigable Ravishankar Bhooplapur is always ready to help at a time of natural calamity or any other crisis. It goes to his credit to secure \$700,000 grants for Covid-19 related activities for India from Rotary International.



Ravishankar Bhooplapur played a key role in making the Gandhi Peace Garden in Long Island a reality.

mography Bus for detection of breast cancer in Bangalore, a project executed in association with Poornasuda Foundation.

Padma Shri awardee and celebrated oncologist Dr Dattatreya Nori says about Ravi, "I am grateful to Ravi who worked with me and the late Dr Tulsi Polavarapu some 10 years ago in obtaining a Mobile Diagnostic Cancer Screening Van as a donation through Rotary International for our not-for-profit Indo American Cancer Hospital in Hyderabad. That van had everything we needed for cancer screening: mammogram, X-ray unit, etc. Working with the underprivileged, that van has screened more than one lakh people and detected innumerable cancers."

Ravi is also the Founder & Honorary Chairman of "Gift of Life India", which has been instrumental in saving 6,000 lives by providing heart surgeries to children suffering from congenital heart disease.

In India, he also set up a 100-bed Naturopathy and Yoga Hospital in 2002 in Chataprabha named after his mother,



On behalf of Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, actor Dharmendra honored Ravi for 'Outstanding Contributions to Eradicate Cancer' in 2009.

Ravishankar "Ravi" Bhooplapur is a tireless philanthropist and humanitarian who has travelled to close to one hundred countries to set up various health and educational projects, necessitated often by natural disasters and other calamities.

Ravi has done numerous worldwide humanitarian grants and medical missions. He was able to secure millions of dollars in grants for his charitable works, initiated first by donating money from his own Bhooplapur Foundation.

Among Ravi's recent initiatives was raising \$195,000 in funding to provide 25 low cost housing in the Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala for the people affected by the floods there in 2018. In the second phase of this initiative, another 25 houses are being provided for. Kamlesh Mehta, a past Rotary District Governor like Ravi, said, "It has been an excellent humanitarian service arranged by Ravi as he took the lead in securing such a big Rotary Grant. We should take inspiration from him."

Ravi also received close to \$700,000 grants for Covid related activities for India from Rotary International.

Ravi is known for his penchant to rise to the occasion and take leadership roles to help when disasters strike like the Gujarat earthquake, and tsunami in south India in the past.

In 2016 he donated money for the MOM Express Mobile Mam-



Founder Chairman of Gift of Life India, Ravi invited Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka to its event in 2012.

Parwathi Bhooplapur.

Even before migrating to New York in 1992, while in Dharwad, Karnataka, when his means were limited, Ravi had started taking on big humanitarian projects. His inspiration: Rotary's 'service above self' motto. Joining Rotary at the age of 18 was a turning point in life. The Rotary message and ideal was reinforced by his own Lingayat heritage - a reformist movement in Karnataka, whose main saying is 'work is worship'.

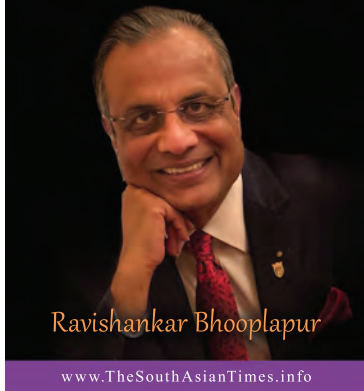


Ravi as Gala Chair seen at the AIA's Golden Jubilee event with actor Anupam Kher and AIA team: Dr Kukar, Dr Arya, Dr Bhat, and Smiti and Ram Khanna.



Ravi at the AIA gala with Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty and honoree Dr Narinder Kukar.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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# Community work

him to play a key role in making Gandhi Peace Garden in Long Island a reality. The garden was set up at SUNY campus to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by Shanti Fund in association with the Indian Consulate. It was inaugurated remotely by PM Modi in September 2019. In attendance were Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty and SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts. Ravi recalls, "When the thought was floated to set up the Gandhi Peace Garden, I immediately volunteered to work with SUNY trustees to get the land granted and helped this project get off the ground."

Earlier the same year, Ravi was presented the Leadership Award by SUNY Old Westbury. The award recognizes a select few individuals who have committed themselves to leadership work and helping others.

Since 1993 Ravi has also been associated with the Association of Indians in America (AIA) - National, the oldest community organization with a stellar record of achievements for creating the environment where Indian immigrants to the US can feel secure and thrive. Being resourceful and known as a good organizer, he was chosen to be the Gala Chair for AIA's 40th anniversary as well

as the Golden Jubilee celebration in 2018. When AIA published the heavyweight book 'Ananya' on India to celebrate 50 years of India's independence in 1997, they needed additional funds to make it available to Indian missions around the world. He promptly opened his purse strings. Around the same time, he served as Treasurer for the Center for India Studies at Stony Brook University.

Ravi has not forgotten his roots, he has been actively involved with New Jersey based Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA) since long, and served as its President in 2003 and 2004.

For his humanitarian work and community leadership roles, Ravi has received numerous awards. To list a few:

- In 2012 he was awarded the prestigious "Ellis Island Medal of Honor", which celebrates medalists' professional contributions to the United States of America and their immigrant heritage.
- Proclamation from the United States Congress by Hon Gary Ackerman in 2009.
- All the top awards from Rotary International.
- Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation (NDMF) honored him in 2009 with the Outstanding Humanitarian Award. He gave financial support to NDMF for their funding to the Indore Cancer Foundation Charitable Trust in India.



Special Recognition for Ravi from actress Sharmila Tagore for supporting education programs in India.



Ravishankar being honored for his humanitarian work by his namesake (also from Karnataka), with a Sri Sri prefix.

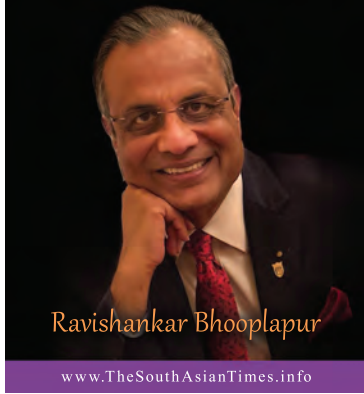


Ravi was President of Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA) in 2003 & 2004.



Congressman Gary Ackerman presented Ravi a special recognition from US Congress in 2004 for his outstanding achievements and contributions to society.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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# A medical school growing in international repute



Starting from scratch in 2008, Ravishankar Bhooplapur has turned Xavier University School of Medicine into a Top 10 Medical School in the Caribbean. The school is committed to providing affordable quality medical education to students and addressing the acute physician shortage in the US, Canada and other countries.



sciences are receiving increased emphasis and the medical humanities module is being offered to all first semester students.

## ACCM-Ireland & CAAM-HP Accreditation

Xavier has received full accreditation from two prestigious international accrediting bodies: CAAM-HP (Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions), and ACCM -Ireland (Accreditation Commission on Colleges of Medicine). The purpose of the accreditation process is to assure that medical schools follow the best practices in teaching and learning and provide adequate support to students.

Significantly, both ACCM-Ireland and CAAM-HP are accepted by the US Department of Education's National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA).

XUSOM has also been recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Jordan for the undergraduate medical (MD) course as a non-Jordanian University, outside Jordan. The Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr Amin Mahmoud visited the Xavier campus in Aruba and the clinical facilities in New York in 2015.

President Bhooplapur and Xavier's committed board of trust-

the first of 3 exams you need to take in order to receive your MD degree.

The student to teacher ratio at Xavier is 10:1, which provides students with an individualized learning environment. All labs and classrooms have state-of-

Heights Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY. All the clinical rotations are accredited green book rotations.

With eminent doctors on board, like Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat, XUSOM is able to attract top class faculty and frequent high

Barry Smith, President & CEO of the Rogosin Institute; Dr. Ram Raju, Senior Vice President and Community Health Investment Officer at Northwell Health; Dr. Moro Salifu, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at SUNY



Ensconced in the admission office of Xavier in Woodbury, NY, Ravi Bhooplapur ascribes its success to putting together an excellent curriculum and top qualified faculty. Not just producing excellent doctors, Xavier motto is 'Cultivating Great Minds For Generations To Come'.

the-art equipment, including LCD projectors, Smart boards, charts and anatomy museums. Plasticized human cadavers are used for teaching and dissection. Anatomical dissections are performed at the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital, the local hospital in Aruba. The campus itself is a newly renovated, modern facility comprising over 125,000 square feet. The entire facility has central air conditioning and is equipped with wireless technology throughout.

The school has a diverse student population from 27 different nationalities, and under the current leadership has expanded to open pre-med campuses in Ghana, Jordan, and India. In addition to this Xavier has also worked hard to develop new post-graduate courses covering a number of fields including, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Physiology and Radiology.

## Excellent Clinical Rotation Opportunities

To offer quality clinical training, Xavier University has affiliation with more than 31 hospitals in the US including Wyckoff

profile special guests visiting and offering instruction and guidance to students. At a recent panel discussion by Xavier, for example, the special guests included Dr.

Downstate; and Dr. Ravi Gupta, Chief Medical Information Office and Internal Medicine Residency Program Director at Long Island Community Hospital.



Ravi Bhooplapur explaining the Xavier campus plan to Aruba Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes. She also graced the medical school's White Coat Ceremony in 2018.

21st century.

Ravi told The South Asian Times that XUSOM is following a fully integrated model with early clinical exposure during the basic science years. Introduction to clinical medicine is also learned in concert with the organ systems. The social and behavioral

ees are proud to have achieved accreditations and international standards and are working hard to continue to provide an excellent education for the school's students.

Xavier currently holds a 96% first time pass rate on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step1 exam. This is

## Xavier medical school is now approved by New York State

New York: The New York Board of Regents approved Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba last July to place students in long-term clinical clerkship in New York State for 7 years. This is the longest term of approval that can be given to an international medical school, XUSOM President Ravi Bhooplapur said proudly.

New York State Education Department approval allows:

Xavier graduates to enter residency training in NY Xavier students to complete all 72 weeks of clinical training in New York teaching hospitals

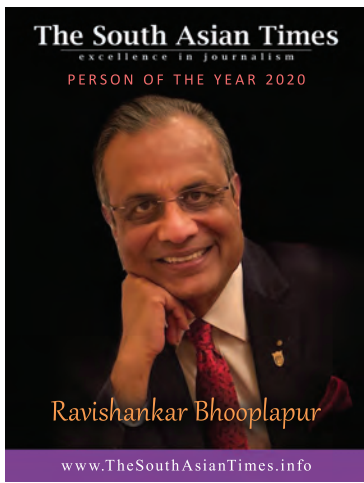
This landmark achievement makes Xavier as only

one of seven Caribbean medical schools to be approved by the New York State Education Department.

Under the leadership of Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat and Chairman of the Board Mr. Edwin Casey and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Arun Dubey, XUSOM, with its admissions office in Long Island, is committed to providing high quality affordable medical education to everyone.







## Xavier ranked among top 10 Caribbean medical schools by Money Inc

Xavier University School of Medicine was ranked among top 10 medical schools in the Caribbean by Money Inc. magazine in 2019.

The magazine wrote that Xavier is one of the few universities in the Caribbean that is accredited by both

CAAM-HP and ACCM, adding, "They have a 96 percent USMLE first-time passing rate and offer clinical rotations in the United States. The university website says that students can enjoy an environment like no other for their studies because the uni-

versity is located on the hot and beautiful island of Aruba. In addition to the medical degrees on offer, this university offers international pre-med programs and post-graduate programs."

## International Campuses

With a worldwide growing demand for high quality medication education, Xavier University has opened pre med campuses abroad. After completing pre med, students come to Aruba for their basic science and then to the US for their clinical rotations. Xavier opened 4 pre-med campuses in 2016 with additional ones planned in the future.

St. Francis College, Hyderabad

TIPs Global Institute, Coimbatore

German Jordan University, Amman, Jordan

Baldwin College, Accra, Ghana

## New Campus Expansion

In 2014, Xavier added more land to the originally acquired 20 acres for the campus in Oranjestad, Aruba's capital. Its new campus is a multiphase project that will see an investment of over \$60 million and is expected to be completed by 2022. Phase 1 will open this year, comprising a 3 story student housing complex, dining facilities, sport courts, and site infrastructure.

Phase 2 will consist of a full state of the art academic block including lecture halls, labs, modern auditorium, computer labs and conference rooms and research facilities and clinic. Additional housing will be added in future years.

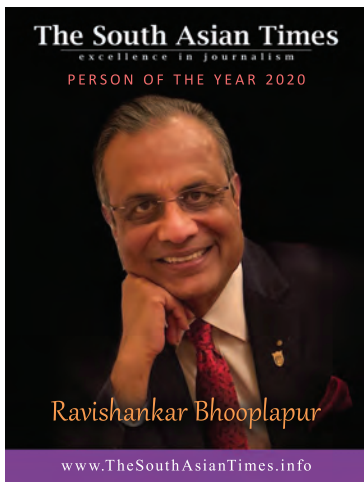


Congratulations, Mr. Ravishankar Bhooplapur and thank you for being a Humanitarian, Philanthropist, Educationist, inspiring Community Leader and friend.



Xavier held its 12th Graduation Ceremony in 2019 at St. John's University. Their students have a 96% first time passing rate on the USMLE Step 1 and a 70% residency rate.





## Student Loan Program

Xavier is offering affordable student loans to qualified students through an international educational loan program. Students are able to borrow the full cost of education including living expenses. They can borrow up to \$60,000 per year. Loans are for 20 years and repayment does not begin until after completion of residency. Currently these programs are offered to US citizens and Green Card holders.

## Health fairs

To strengthen clinical exposure and create strong links with the Aruban community, the school conducts periodic health fairs. Health fairs have been conducted

in the school premises, at local banks, Aruba Customs and the International School of Aruba.

With a dynamic and inspired leadership, committed faculty and other human resources and state of the art infrastructure, Xavier University will confidently march ahead in its mission of producing leaders in primary health care and will continue to produce physicians with sound technical knowledge and good human and emotional skills!

## Scholarship Opportunities

Xavier University offers financial assistance to the students in the form of academic scholarships. Scholarships are offered based on semester GPA, Dean's list for academic achievement, research publications and CARICOM countries' resident students.

Always ready to go an extra mile to help students, Ravi has established the Xavier Foundation, which received 501C approval as a public charity from the IRS in 2019. He has announced a goal of raising \$5 million by 2023, out of which 500k had already been pledged from Trustees and other donors.

## The Aruba factor

Aruba is one of the most beautiful and developed Caribbean islands. It is also well connected with the US and Europe by air. The weather is temperate throughout the year and its location is below the hurricane belt. All these factors make Aruba a great destination to come and stay for a few years for higher education. Ravi considers Xavier as a "feather in the cap" of Aruba, in that it has a special place on the island.



Ravi Bhooplapur is thankful to his Board of Trustees for their support in making Xavier successful (from left): Dr. Obi Nwasokwa, Dr. P.K. Prahald, Dr. Ravindra Kota, Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat, Chairman Mr. Edwin Casey, Mr. Frank Croes, and Dr. Anthony Shallash.



Ravi welcomed His Excellency Dr Amin Mahmoud, Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan, to the campus, introducing him to Chancellor Dr JG Bhat, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center CEO Mr. Rodriguez, Chief Medical Officer Dr Del Toro and other dignitaries.



XAVIER UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
ARUBA

Contact for Xavier  
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1000 Woodbury Road, Suite 109,  
Woodbury NY 11797.  
Ph: 416-222-2224.  
Website: xusom.com



HEREBY CONGRATULATES

# Mr. Ravi Bhooplapur

On being honored as

## The South Asian Times

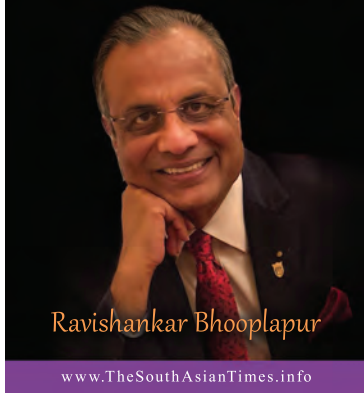
excellence in Journalism

PERSON OF THE YEAR 2020

MR. ANTHONY G. CROES RA, FOUNDER AND OWNER OF PLUSACCOUNTANTS, HAS BEEN DOING BUSINESS WITH MR. BHOOPLAPUR FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS LEARNT THE GREAT WORK HE HAS BEEN DOING FOR HUMANITY.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE INVALUABLE EFFORTS AS WELL AS ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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As a young college union leader in India, Ravishankar Bhooplapur demonstrated strong leadership skills and great enthusiasm for anything he put his mind to. His

tract was not established in his town, so he joined the Rotary club in Dharwad, in Karnataka state. He joined in 1980 at the young age of 18 in a club with an average age of 50+. Nevertheless, his fellow club members were a successful cross-section of the town. Ravi's association with these members had a pro-

meetings and conventions outside his town, and got to know people who did things differently than he did. This changed his way of thinking and doing good for humanity.

Belonging to a lower-middle class family, son of a college principal, he began to dream big and do bigger things in different

ity. They established the Bhooplapur Foundation back in 1999.

In 2002, Ravi took the lead to establish Gift of Life, India. He saw the Gift of Life program in New York, and was drawn to the cause to create low cost and free heart surgeries for poor children. Ravi worked to solidify the program in India. He restructured and shaped the organization into what it is today, and continues to work on this ambitious project. So far, one small thought and act of starting this project has been instrumental in obtaining over \$2.5 million in grants from Rotary, and approximately 6,000 children were given the gift of life and made many like-minded people to come forward to donate year after year for this cause. He serves as Hon. Chairman of Gift of Life, India.

Aside from Gift of Life, Ravi has helped many humanitarian initiatives and projects in India for the last 20+ years, from north to south and east to west. He is an undisputed philanthropist, contagiously helping everyone, no matter where they come from or their political or religious affiliations. He is a man who will never say no to a good projects, and will go the extra mile to find the resources and the people necessary. He is also always there to provide advice on whether a project is feasible. Ravi is



To be able to give, you have to first have. For somebody born in a small Indian town, Rotary widened Ravi Bhooplapur's horizons, inspiring him to scale new heights of personal success as well as go on to serve one of the largest humanitarian service organizations in leading positions. Today he has been included in Rotary's Legacy Society – a club of \$1 million donors.

(2009-10), the first one of Indian origin to do so. Frank Devlyn, Rotary International President (2000-01) from Mexico, said at the time: "Ravi is an outstanding Rotarian that is why the district elected him."

As District Governor, Ravi chartered four new Rotary clubs



Ravi and Jaya Bhooplapur were inducted in 2005 into Rotary's Hall of Fame for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation. The New York couple with their children Manali and Amogh posed at the Hall of Fame aisle in the 115-year-old organization's Chicago headquarters.

neighbor, a Rotarian and architect by profession, noticed these qualities in Ravi and approached his mother to encourage him to join an international reputable club such as the Rotary. However, Ro-

found impact on him.

At the time Ravi joined, the Rotary's global reach was limited to print media, or visiting fellow members in other cities and countries. Slowly and steadily, Ravi began to attend

avenues of service. Although he did not have personal financial resources then, he never hesitated to take on big roles in projects and find the right people to donate money and services. Soon it became a way of life for Ravi. He held offices in his club from Sergeant-at-Arms to President-elect.

In 1992, Ravi relocated in the United States. His regard for Rotary in his heart was so strong that he rejoined the international organization when the Group Study Exchange team headed by Dr. Rajan Deshpande visited New York and encouraged him to become a member again in New York. This made it easy for him to assimilate with his American friends in Rotary society. It was effortless for him because he was a well-educated, well-groomed Rotarian thanks to the foundation he developed in Rotary in India. He was the Centennial President of Rotary Club of Great Neck, NY and later with the Gold Coast Lake Success Club, NY, became Assistant District Governor in 2005-06 and Governor in 2009-10.

Ravi started to fulfill his big dreams to help undertake major projects around the world and become a major donor. He spoke seriously with his wife Jayasheela Bhooplapur, now also a Rotarian, and the two decided to donate part of their income every year to char-



Rotary Foundation instituted a Trophy in 2005 for South Asia Zone V & VI in Ravi & Jaya Bhooplapur's name to be given every year to the highest contributing District of Rotary Zone V & VI to the permanent fund to the Foundation.

grateful to the Rotary of India and all the great things he has learned from them. He has helped his home country numerous times, coming to quick rescue at the times of natural disasters and human tragedies like the recent floods in Kerala.

Meanwhile, at Rotary, Ravi kept moving up to accept bigger roles because even with his busy schedule as president of the Xavier University School of Medicine, he is able to find time to make things happen. He became Governor of New York Rotary District 7255

in 2009: Hicksville South, Jericho Sunrise (for ladies), Jackson Heights and Richmond Hills. Their members are mainly South Asians. Then RI President Elect Kalyan Banerjee administered the oath of office to over 100 new members of Hicksville South and Jericho Sunrise, where he said of Ravi, "When Ravi Bhooplapur wants to do something, he gets it done."

Over the years, Ravi has been instrumental in shepherding numerous worldwide humanitarian grants and medical missions.

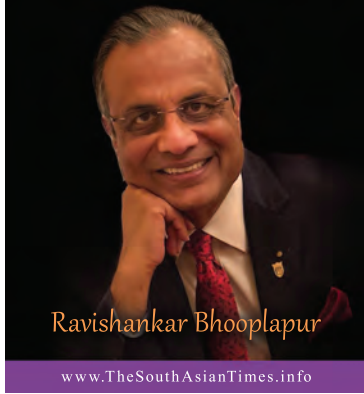
INAUGURATION OF  
"GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT NO 2012720"  
"COVID-19 ICU WARD IN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, DHARWAD"

JAYA & RAVI BHOOPALPUR  
ROTARY ICU WARD

Rotary Foundation  
HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROJECT

Ravi & Jaya Bhooplapur gave their home town, Dharwad, a gift by donating to set up Rotary ICU unit at the civil hospital, which is need of the hour due to Covid 19.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

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ROTARY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Because of his experience in the finance industry, Ravi was made a member of Rotary's Investment Committee from 2016-19 to disburse funds of \$1.2 Billion.

He has also secured millions of dollars in grants for his charitable initiatives. His multifarious association with the Rotary movement, his generous donations and legendary fundraising efforts as well as record of successfully executing projects has brought him top awards and honors from the organization he owes so much to. Even before he became RI District Governor, he was bestowed the awards of Distinguished Service, Meritorious Service, and Service Above Self, becoming the youngest to receive such acclamations.

Moreover, Ravi and his wife Jayasheela Bhooplapur were made Charter members of the Arch Klump Society back in 2005, which recognizes The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors — those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime. The same year, the couple were inducted into Rota-

ry's Hall of Fame, for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Their photograph is displayed at the 115-year-old organization's Chicago headquarters.

Rotary International has trust-

ed Ravi with big responsibilities. He served as Member, Bangkok Convention Promotion Committee 2012 and Polio Plus Subcommittee: District Chair 2012-13.

Then, from 2016 to 2019 he

was on Rotary's Investment Committee (2016-2019) that manages \$1.2 billion funds to be distributed over 3 years. He also served on Rotary Global Rewards committee and Rotaract committee.

As he continues to be a dedicated Rotarian and philanthropist, Ravishankar Bhooplapur may end up taking bigger responsibilities like trustee or some committee chair.



Gift of Life, India established by Ravi has saved the lives of over 6,000 poor children needing heart surgeries. He was heartened to meet many of them last February in Kolkata @ Rotary India Centennial Summit attended by Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan & Rotary International President Elect Shekhar Mehta.

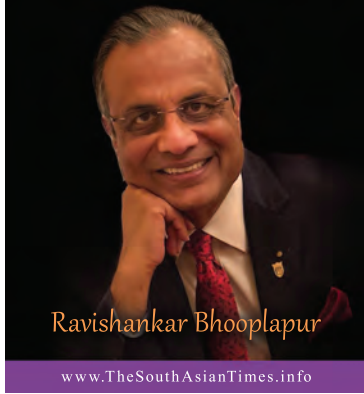


As Rotary District Governor in New York, Ravi Bhooplapur chartered 4 clubs in 2009. Along with then RI President-elect Kalyan Banerjee, he graced the inauguration of Hicksville South and Jericho Sunrise. Charter Presidents respectively of the two clubs Kamlesh Mehta and Vimi Sikka are on the left.



Ravishankar Bhooplapur asserts that polio eradication is Rotary's biggest contribution to humanity in our time. He has supported the campaign and travelled to India to take part in the Polio Drop drives.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

## Discipline is the key

Jayasheela Bhooplapur

People know about his success here in America. But he was number one in his printing business in Dharwad too. Knowing his capability some people told him that he will be more successful in America. The secret to his success is he is very disciplined and motivated. And he does everything by the book, no short cuts. I have changed a lot under his influence – become more positive thinking person.

I am always supportive – more so in Ravi's philanthropic projects. My attorney father was a Rotarian, so I have seen how Rotary works. I married Ravi because he was a Rotarian. Here in New York, after Ravi as District Governor chartered Jericho Sunrise club, I too got involved and served as its President for a year.

We are Lingayats. This Shaivite Hindu sect was founded in the 12th century by a saint-statesman named Basaveswara (or Basava) in Karnataka. No caste system and women's equality are the hallmarks of this reformist movement. Also, work is worship is our main motto.

Me and Ravi got married as per Lingayat customs with big mukut on the head for the groom and smaller one for the bride (like what you see at Bengali weddings). In our wedding pictures you can see both of us holding shivalingas; we do not go around fire as in other Hindu traditions.

Even at home, Ravi will do puja after morning shower, putting on the vibhuti on the forehead. As a family we celebrate all the festivals together. Starting from our New Year called Ugadi, that



Work hard play hard or work-life balance!

# Behind every successful man is a ...

Jayasheela Bhooplapur reveals the secret to Ravi's success and some lesser known aspects about him. Daughter Manali dwells on the values he inculcated in her. And Amogh writes about what drives Dad.



comes in March-April to the most important one, Ganesh Chaturthi, also Dasehra and Deepavali.

Ravi loves to give surprises. About eight years ago when we were living in the Syosset house (now we are in Dix Hills), he told me to "go see there is something in

Another time, when I was still in India and he had gone to America, the doorbell rang and I opened the door thinking it was the milkman, but it was Ravi standing there smiling. I had not seen him for three years, and that was a big surprise.

Ravi is able to manage work-life



Ravishankar and Jayasheela 'remarried' in style at Oheka Castle on Long Island to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

the garage". I went and found two new cars parked there - one was a Lamborghini, the other a Bentley.

balance because his time management is excellent. Besides, he is able to multitask all the time. We go on vacations at least once a year. And he loves movies, action movies, both Bolly and Hollywood kind.

One thing Ravi is grateful to me for is bringing yoga to his life. He goes to the gym too, but now we have a yoga teacher coming home every alternate day.

He has great taste, and always picks great saris for me.

## Everyone has potential

Daughter Manali's take

ple no matter who they are.

He encouraged me and I went to volunteer at the pediatric burn unit of a hospital in Nicaragua. I was in high school then, and it was really an eye-opener, seeing firsthand what exactly is the medical field and what to expect. I saw both sides -- how patients suffer and how doctors ease their pain. I eventually studied to become a doctor at a medical school in Belgaum in Karnataka and am ready to do my residency here in New York.

Since my dad was heavily into Rotary, in school I was inspired to join Interact club. We did much work through Rotary projects. I was in Interact for four years all through high school. We raised a lot of money, including for Gift of Life projects. We also volunteered at the kitchen of Ronald McDonald House in Queens where kids stay after being brought for surgeries. Dad has helped build a room there.

At one Gift of Life hospital in India, I volunteered, consoling the kids. In medical school I was part of the Student Council. I was the overseas secretary, coordinating be-

Dad may look strict and scary, but he's not. He's actually pretty soft person inside. I have seen him get involved with so many things, which just shows that everyone has potential. There's no excuse (for not succeeding). We shouldn't be scared and always try different things. That's what he shows. And like my Mom said, Dad is very disciplined. Since we were very young, we were told to make our bed. And till today it's just been there to always keep your room tidy and clean.

As in our Lingayat community, Dad firmly believes that work is worship. He is religious but not overly so. For him, work is his way of giving back, respecting everything. He believes that no matter what your financial situation is, it's always important to help peo-

tween overseas students and helping them adjust to campus life in a different country. For me adjusting in India was not that hard because I was born there and went there every two years. Language was not a problem either as we speak Kannada at home. In fact, I was the interpreter for most of my batch mates in their interactions with patients.

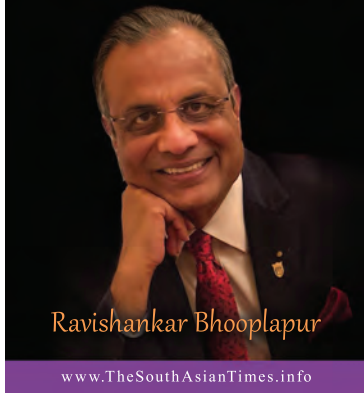


Ravi and Jaya holding Shivalinga in their hands while performing wedding rituals as per their Lingayat tradition.



Inspired by their father, Manali and Amogh volunteered at a hospital in Karnataka that was doing Gift of Life surgeries.





Ravishankar Bhooplapur

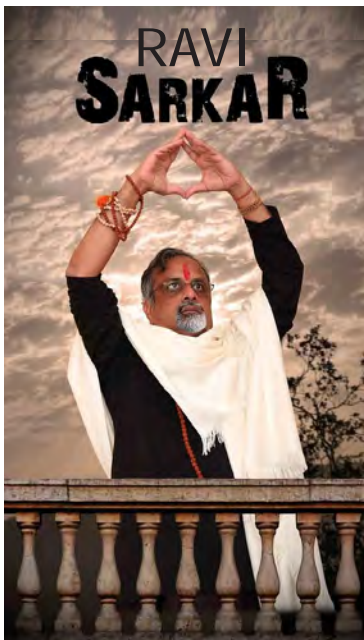
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Ravi and extended family at his parents' 60th marriage anniversary in 2014 back home. Father Basav Raj Bhooplapur retired as a college principal.



Jaya Bhooplapur says that the family takes at least one vacation in a year. Ravi is globe-trotter by nature.



He may be from South India, but Ravi is a Bollywood fan.



Ravi's Rotary journey began in Dharwad, Karnataka. Rotarians and the community in the area felicitated him in 2009. Dr Prabhakar Kore, Chairman of a chain of educational institutions greeted Ravi and Jaya.



Ravi built a naturopathy and yoga hospital named after his mother, Parwati Bhooplapur, in their native place, Ghataprabha in Karnataka.

## What drives Dad...

By Amogh Bhooplapur

My father has been able to achieve what many immigrants in the United States have been able to achieve: the American Dream. Like many reading this, he came from humble beginnings, but achieved success with hard work, persistence, and perseverance.

While many see the commanding exterior that Ravi presents when in a room, it will only take a few minutes to realize that he does not have a bad bone in his body. I believe success comes easy for him as he loves doing what he enjoys. He takes pride in his entrepreneurial work, be

it helping create more doctors, which is a dire need, or helping protect friends and loved ones by ensuring that they are insured properly. My father loves to make others smile - be it a typical dad joke in the car or helping set up a medical center for the underprivileged. What truly drives him is the smile he can put on others' faces. I am lucky to have a dad who always takes the time to educate those around him to provide proper guidance. He has provided valuable skills and taught numerous lessons to both myself and my friends.

It can be hard to balance work, philanthropy, and family life. However, Dad has always found a way and I sincerely thank him for that. He is the epitome of "Work hard play hard" and I look forward to following in his footsteps.



No, it is not his love of exotic cars. What truly drives Ravi is the smile he can put on others' faces.