

PROFILE:

Dr. Prasad Thotakura is a versatile community leader par excellence and has been serving the community for over 25 years. He is currently working as a Chief Operating Officer, ekNazar.com, Dallas, Texas, USA. Prior to this he was a marketing manager with Mobil Oil Corp. He resides with his wife Swarupa in Fort Worth, TX and has two married children, daughter Prasanthi and son Sudhir.

Dr. Thotakura strongly feels that “helping others is not a community service but is a social responsibility.”

His sincere, honest and dedicated efforts in solving complex immigration challenges, domestic disputes, emergency situations has earned him an outstanding reputation, appreciation and respect among all cross sections of the society where people regard him as the “hour-of-need”.

His strategy, persistent efforts, patience, commitment and hard work were admired by all and elevated him as a distinguished leader in the community when he led the years of untiring efforts to build Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Plaza in Irving, TX (in 2014), the largest Gandhi Memorial in the USA. (www.mgmnt.org)

Dr. Thotakura's interpersonal skills, forward, analytical thinking, helping others with sincerity and honesty designated him as an outstanding, dynamic, community and corporate leader.

Dr. Thotakura is perceived as a team player, inspiring, motivational and role model leader who responds to all emergency situations promptly. One of the recent best examples is his vision in drafting an article namely [“Guidelines for F1 Student Visa to Study in the USA”](#) which is helping several students from India who will be planning to study in the USA.

Dr. Thotakura foresaw the need of the logistics of funeral arrangements and drafted an important document with the title [“The Final Journey”](#), helping the community as a resource guide to go through step by step process in performing the final rites respectfully.

As a strong admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, with the intention of inculcating the ideals, philosophy of Gandhiji among younger generation, Dr. Prasad Thotakura donated an eight foot tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi (worth Rs.8 lakhs) to Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalam, Tirupati, AP, India in 2017.

Reacting to unfortunate sporadic racial discrimination incidents across the country, Dr. Prasad Thotakura created a well-informed document on [“Safety Measures – Precautions to be taken”](#) thereby guiding the community.

Dr. Thotakura strongly believes in merging into the main stream and plays a key role in building stronger bonds between the USA and India to foster developments in both communities.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

- ❖ **“Community Role Model Award”**, Hon. Chief Minister of Puducherry Sri V. Narayana Swamy, 15th Yanam People’s Festival, Yanam, India (2017).



- ❖ **“Special Appreciation & Felicitation”**, Hon. AP CM Sri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, at 104th Indian Science Congress, SPMVV University, Tirupati, India (2017).
- ❖ **“Gandhi Seva Medal”**, Gandhi Global Family Organization, Washington DC (2014).
- ❖ **“Melvin Jones Fellow Award”**, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Dallas, TX (2014).
- ❖ **“Honorary Doctorate Degree”**, GITAM University, Visakhapatnam, AP (2013).
- ❖ **“Akkineni Life Time Swarna Kankanam Award”**, Dr. ANR at Vamsi Int’l, Hyd. (2013).
- ❖ **“Best Community Service Award”**, Hon. South Carolina State Governor Nikki Haley, Dallas, TX (2011).
- ❖ **“Excellent Community Service Award”**, Art of Living Foundation, USA (2008).
- ❖ **“International Community Service Award”**, ITCLA, Hyderabad, India (2007).
- ❖ **“Seva Nidhi Award”**, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Vamsi International, Hyderabad (2006).
- ❖ **“Ugadi Puraskar”**, Telugu Association of North Texas (TANTEX), Dallas, TX (2004).
- ❖ **“Best NRI Award”**, Delhi Telugu Academy, New Delhi, India (2002).
- ❖ **“Outstanding Community Service Award”**, Hon. Texas State Governor Rick Perry, at the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce (GDAACC), (2001).
- ❖ **“Special Appreciation Award”**, CARE International (2001).
- ❖ **“Community Service Award”**, Telugu Association of North America (TANA) (2001).

LEADERSHIP ROLES:

- ❖ Chairman, **Mahatma Gandhi Memorial of North Texas (MGMNT)** 2013 – Current

As a Chairman of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial of North Texas, Dr. Thotakura initiated and installed Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Dallas, TX which stands as the largest Gandhi Memorial in the USA.

- ❖ President, **Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC)** Current

As a President of Indian American Friendship Council, Dr. Prasad Thotakura involved and inspired the Indian American Community to merge into main stream of America. For the last 15 years he is striving to build better bonding between USA & India by educating & interacting with US Politicians and Policy makers.

- ❖ Founder President, **Akkineni Foundation of America (AFA)** (2014 & 2015)

Dr. Thotakura, who is one of the closest associates of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Akkineni Nageswara Rao, veteran Telugu Movie Actor, founded Akkineni Foundation of America in 2013. Dr. Thotakura always admires his life background, with the intention of inculcating the great qualities of Dr. ANR like hard work, dedication, self-confidence and determination among the youth.

- ❖ President, **Telugu Association of North America (TANA)** (2011-2013)

During his presidential term of TANA, he worked very hard.

- And helped students who lost their visa status because of joining unrecognized universities
- And helped NRI families who lost their loved ones in US accidents
- To preserve, propagate Telugu culture, heritage and music.
- Organized an outstanding TANA convention that reflected Telugu culture, traditions, literature and music where more than 10,000 people attended.

His leadership skills were lauded by one and all when his TANA Convention Team gave back over \$450,000 surplus to TANA after hosting a memorable 19th TANA convention that was held in May 2013 in Dallas, TX.

❖ President, **India Association of North Texas (IANT)** (2002)

As a President of Indian Association of North Texas (IANT), Dr. Prasad Thotakura set a record as the first Telugu person of origin to lead 40 plus year old IANT which is an umbrella organization of over 60 plus India based organizations. As fundraising chairman and President, he raised close to one million dollars to help the victims of Gujarat Earthquake, Orissa Cyclone, 911 world trade center disaster etc.,

❖ Chairman, Seva Committee, **DFW Hindu Temple**, Irving, TX (2000 & 2001)

As a Chairman, DFW Hindu Temple Seva Committee, Dr. Thotakura inspired and involved youth to take up some community service oriented projects to help needy school children with school supplies, homeless shelters to provide food items etc.,

❖ President, **Telugu Association of North Texas (TANTEX)** (2000)

As a President of Telugu Association of North Texas, Dr. Prasad Thotakura innovated and initiated new projects like monthly Telugu literary meets which are successfully running even now by completing more than monthly episodes and many radio programs.

❖ Advisory Board of Director:

- **Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD)**
- **Dallas Conventions and Visitors Bureau (DCVB)**
- **American Cancer Society (ACS)**
- **KERA 90.1 FM Public Radio**
- **Texas International Theatrical Art Society (TITAS)**
- **Dallas Police Chief's Racial Profiling Board (DPCR)**
- **World Affairs Council Dallas Fort Worth (WAC - DFW)**

FUNDRAISED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING:

- ❖ \$100,000 to “Krishna District Educational Development Fund (KEDFUND)” to help needy students (Chairman, KEDFUND).
- ❖ \$100,000 to “Flood Relief Fund” 2010 to help Cyclone victims (President-elect, TANA).
- ❖ \$500,000 to “Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund 2001” (President–Elect, IANT).
- ❖ \$116, 000 for “NY/D.C. Disaster Relief Fund”, (Fund Raising Chairman, IANT).
- ❖ \$75,000 to help the victims of “Orissa Cyclone” in 2000 (Vice-President, IANT).

ORGANIZED VERY PROMINENT CULTURAL EVENTS SUCH AS:

- ❖ Several Kuchipudi dance ballets by Padma Bhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam.
- ❖ A number of Carnatic music concerts by Padma Vibhushan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna.
- ❖ Devotional concerts by Padma Shri Dr. Shobha Raju.
- ❖ Film music concerts by Padma Bhushan Dr. K.J. Yesudas, Padma Bhushan Dr. S.P. Balasubramanyam, Padma Bhushan Dr. P. Suseela, Dr. S. Janaki, Padma Shri Dr. K.S. Chithra, and Famous Music Directors like Mani Sharma, Devi Sri Prasad and G. Anand.
- ❖ Telugu literary meets with eminent personalities like - Mr. “Sirivennela” Seetarama Sastry, Mr. Gollapudi Maruthi Rao, Dr. Avula Manjulatha, Brahmasree Samavedam S. Sarma, Dr. Suddala Ashok Teja, Avadhani Dr. Medasani Mohan, Avadhani Dr. Garikepati Narasimha Rao, Avadhani Narala Rama Reddy, Avadhani Dr. Madugula Nagaphani Sarma etc.

