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PROFILE

March 2006

Keshav Chandaria

philanthropist par excellence and community activist



Keshav Chandaria with wife Manuben

Keshav Chandaria, Toronto's philanthropist par excellence and community busybody, has developed the reputation of someone you go to when you need help. Through his work with the Rotary Club of Toronto since 1977, he has helped organize the distribution of wheelchairs to Africa and India, cancer equipment to Brazil, and dental equipment for Mumbai. The list of those he has helped is long and continues to grow.

Keshav Chandaria came to Canada in 1976 and is a prime example of those who have, against all odds, clawed their way to the commanding heights and are making a remarkable contribution to the economy. He has established firm base for his group in North America.

Born in Jamnagar, India, on January 27, 1927, Keshav was eight months old when he moved to Africa. He studied in India and graduated from University of California in 1948. He joined the family business in Kenya and expanded - diversified in several industries.



BHARAT GAURAV AWARD:
Pride of Bharat (India) Award
Presented at Hyderabad on 9th January
2006 by India International Friendship
Society for his contribution for better
world.

JAIN VYAPAR UDYOG SEVA SANTHAN:
Jain Trade and Commerce
Presented Momento on 7th January 2006 for
Keynote address at the First International
Conference at Mumbai

HIND RATNA: Jewel of Hind (India)
Presented on 25th January 2006 in New
Delhi by International Congress of
Non-Resident Indians for outstanding
services, achievements and contributors.

Keshav had established many manufacturing plants in few African countries like aluminium rolling mill in South Africa, flour mill in Kenya, Suitcase manufacturing plant in Rwanda, first corrugated plant in Bujumbura, first plants of nail manufacturing and hurricane lantern in Africa. He managed aluminium hollowware plant in Belgium Congo Ruanda Urundi (now Zaire Rwanda & Burundi) and established a hollowware galvanized pipe plant & steel galvanizing units while staying in Ethiopia from 1964 to 1973. Other industrial interests include textiles, jute and garments.

"Perhaps nobody understands multiculturalism better than Keshav Chandaria does. He has a gentle, understated demeanor and focuses strongly on his impressive philanthropic endeavors. He is a committed pacifist and an internationalist," wrote Margaret Vokes & Rashid Mughal in the South Asian Profile.

He writes in Gujarati, English and Hindi and understands ten other languages. His Gujarati poems have been published in many publications. He is actively involved in many community and social activities, and humanitarian and self-help projects run by numerous organizations.

The list of fund raisings and his efforts is very long. Just to name a one, he actively helped in the setting up of the South Asian Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum. Where ever he can help, Keshav has reached out to do just that. He was honored in 1996 for his tireless efforts with the Humanitarian Award from the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. In 1999, he was awarded The Order of Ontario; first Gujarati to be such recognized by the Ontario Government.

Keshav has also received many honours and awards from organizations like United Way, Rotary, and Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA).

"We are loyal to the country in which we live, " he says.

He is married to Manuben and has a son - Pulin and a daughter- Ami.