



## *Annual A Ray of Hope Event 10th Anniversary!*

**2016 ASHAKIRAN MILESTONE: a decade of commitment empowering foreign born individuals through education, empathy & empowerment**

**For Immediate Release**

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**HUNTSVILLE, AL (06/21/2016):** AshaKiran is proud to announce *A Ray of Hope Event 2016* which will commemorate 10 years of *AshaKiran's* service and raise funds vital to support their emergency shelter outreach programs, and community service work. The event is scheduled to start at 5:30 pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup> in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center and will include a fun 'photo station' to capture the night before beginning with an exciting video of featured testimonials covering 10 years of AshaKiran service, a surprise work of art, a delicious fusion cuisine banquet dinner and a dynamic address by keynote speaker, **Dr. Ludy Green**, one of the world's foremost experts on violence against women & children. Formal ceremonies will end with the AshaKiran Volunteer of the Year Award. At 7:30pm live musical entertainment will begin provided by **First Note Entertainment** multi-genre artists and a grand finale of an out of this world Bollywood performance from international music sensation **Jeffrey Iqbal** and his troupe! DRESS is semi-formal & be ready to DANCE! Two ticket options are currently available for purchase: \$120 ticket includes admission, fusion banquet dinner & entertainment and \$50 ticket includes admission (at 7:30PM) and entertainment only. With the great turnout at previous years' events, and the remarkable line up this years' activities, we are expecting in attendance 800+ guests to join the celebration!

*"Since 2006, AshaKiran has steadily grown and we are excited about its future expansion of services," says AshaKiran Founder/President Kakani, "It gives me immense joy in joining our Board, volunteers, employees, supporters, collaborators and clients to celebrate our 10th anniversary in providing confidential culturally sensitive services to the foreign born."* Today AshaKiran has grown to serve all nationalities experiencing crises such as domestic violence and sexual assault and now includes an Emergency Safe Home, a 24 HR crisis phone *AshaLine* "Hope-Line" as well as statewide training workshops & presentations for crisis organizations, first responders and other professionals who work with underserved populations. *AshaKiran's* backbone is their dependable volunteers from numerous countries and backgrounds who assist in providing culturally competent services in more than 36+ languages & 100 dialects. The consistent support of community & business sponsors and state grants has allowed *AshaKiran* to bring on new staff to increase services throughout the state of Alabama and pioneering original projects like the *New Alabamian Program* to aid foreign-born acclimating to the area.

*AshaKiran, meaning "a ray of hope," is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency dedicated to serving individuals of South Asian and other foreign origins dealing with crises, such as domestic violence & sexual assault, by providing specific culturally sensitive services within our emergency safe home, 24 HR crisis phone AshaLine "Hope-Line" and training workshops & presentations for other crisis organizations and first responders throughout Alabama.*