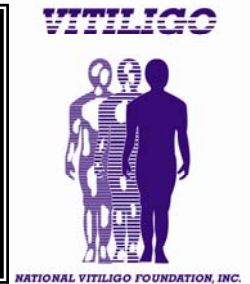


**NATIONAL VITILIGO  
FOUNDATION**

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



## **DHANYA CHANDRAMOHAN**



Dhanya Chandramohan personifies how having vitiligo need not hinder your dreams. She is a talented and bright 17 year old high school senior in Bridgewater, NJ. One of her many passions in life is a form of traditional Indian folk dance, Bharatnatyam. She has spent many years developing her talent in this beautiful art form. Last fall, Dhanya developed and performed a one-woman dance recital as a fund raiser for the National Vitiligo Foundation. On that brisk afternoon, several hundred attendees were mesmerized for two hours by this enchanting performance at the Temple community center, followed by a traditional Indian banquet. This was a successful endeavor, with nearly \$4000 raised for the NVF. We are extremely grateful for Dhanya's commitment to our cause. But, more significantly, we applaud her performance that afternoon, center stage in front of a large audience, as well as the hundreds of hours of earlier training and performances, because she embodies the success a person can achieve regardless of having vitiligo. Having disfigurement of one's skin color need not interfere with one's aspirations in life. Dhanya is a true inspiration for our community and we are pleased to acknowledge her as our NVF volunteer of the year. Below is her story, the recital announcement, and photos of the event.

# An Appeal for Donations to the NVF

Dear Sir/Madam:

People the world over suffer from many non-life-threatening conditions which have a terrible impact on people's health and psyche. These do not get as much attention in terms of research and victim support. Vitiligo (leucoderma) is one of them. As a sufferer of that condition, I wish to do my bit to support the National Vitiligo Foundation. Here is my story.

My name is Dhanya Chandramohan. I am 17 years old. I suffer from Vitiligo – an autoimmune disease where the skin cells lose their pigment. This condition is also referred to as Leucoderma in some parts of the world.

I was only 5 years old when Vitiligo began to affect me. I have now depigmented almost completely on my face and have huge depigmented patches on my arms, elbows, knees and ankles.

Over the past 12 years, I have dealt with Vitiligo's impacts on my life. Although I am in good general health, the de-pigmented skin tends to sun burn easily. Thus, I (who loves the outdoors) have had to limit my exposure to the sun and protect my skin adequately. It can be very emotionally draining to brave people's stares when out in public. Worse still is having to deal with people's insensitive comments especially during one's teen years.

I have been extremely fortunate in having a strong, loving and fiercely supportive circle of family and friends. They have helped me become a happy, self confident person with a very positive outlook on life.

Learning and performing Bharatnatyam has also served as major ego booster and emotional anchor. For that I have to thank Guru Suba Ramesh Parmar and all her love, nurture and sustained guidance over the past 12 years.

Personally, I have learnt to deal with Vitiligo. But what about the millions who are suffering from it and being neglected and marginalized in a society that is ill-informed about Vitiligo? Also, how do we find and channel resources into finding a cure for the condition? Together we can. It is estimated that about 1% of the world's population is affected by Vitiligo. In India it is estimated that as much as 4% of the population is impacted. These are huge numbers by any measure.

The National Vitiligo Foundation (NVF) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to **educate** and help the world to understand and **accept** people with Vitiligo with unquestionable **love** and **respect**; while also helping the medical professions **find a cure**. The NVF is a private, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Further details about the NVF and the efforts it supports can be found at <http://www.nvfi.org/>.

I would like to perform a Bharatnatyam recital to raise funds for the NVF – to support its research grants to find a cure for Vitiligo.

I appeal for your support of this endeavor by attending my dance program and also donating generously to the NVF. Please make your checks payable to the **National Vitiligo Foundation FUND**. Further details regarding my dance program can be found in the attached flyer. I also look to your support in spreading the word regarding this program and the worthy cause it supports.

Thank you! Hope to see you on October 18th!

Sincerely,

Dhanya Chandramohan

# SHUBHANJALI SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

presents

## A BHARATNATYAM PERFORMANCE

BY

### DHANYA CHANDRAMOHAN

(Disciple of Guru Suba Ramesh Parmar,  
Director, Shubhanjali School of Performing Arts)

To Benefit

## THE NATIONAL VITILIGO FOUNDATION

ON

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Dance: 10.30 a.m.      Lunch: 12.30 p.m.**

**At: The Bridgewater Venkateswara Temple Community Center**

**780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

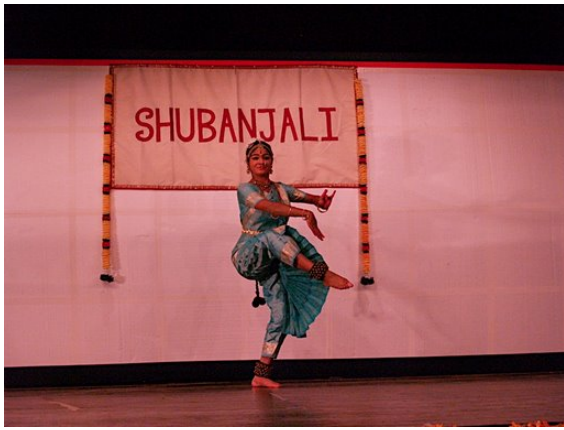
**Please donate to the National Vitiligo Foundation Fund**

**And help find a cure for Vitiligo (Leucoderma)**



Dhanya Chandramohan (17), has been a disciple of Guru Suba Ramesh Parmar for the past 12 years. Dhanya's arangetram was held in August, 2004. Under Guru Suba's able tutelage of the Pandanallur style of Bharatnatyam, Dhanya has grown to become a graceful and expressive dancer. In 2006, Dhanya performed to critical acclaim in Calcutta, Chennai and Bangalore. She won the First Prize at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Bharatnatyam competition in 2006. Dhanya was also selected to compete at the prestigious Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana Bharatnatyam competition in 2007 and 2008. Dhanya has performed extensively in the tri-state area. Dhanya has also been a member of Shubhanjali's team that has won many prizes at the annual competitions held by the Hindu Temple at Bridgewater, NJ – including the one for the Outstanding Dance School in 2007. She has danced in every one of Shubhanjali's productions including "Dance of the Mind", "Santa and Shiva", "Nriya Shakti Yatra", "Chaula Devi" and "Roopa Viroopa – An Indian adaptation of Beauty and the Beast".

***Her foundation in the dance style is solid; the clarity of every stamp of her foot and her expressive narrations were proof enough. She is blessed with a natural stage persona as well...The Hindu***



The Artist.....



The Venue.....



Dhanya & mentor Guru Suba Ramesh Parmar



Dr. Boissy.....Dhanya.....Guru Suba



The Banquet.....



Rathika (Dhanya's mother)..Dr. Boissy..Dhanya

