

Join and Support AFNA – Together we can make a difference

Special Annual Edition 2016

NEWSLETTER

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Assam Foundation of North America

Bringing hope to unprivileged through our various projects

AKADAMICS updates: AKADAMICS program has received 1150 applications this year. This year, the program focused on reaching out to the students from the southern part of Assam, which has been typically a weak region. As a result of the focus, the program has succeeded in getting quite a few applications from that region. Upper Assam remains a weak area, which the program continues to focus.

AKADAMICS is planning on awarding 20 more students this year of which 10 will be from STEM and the rest from non-STEM. The results are due to be announced on June 30th, 2016.

Another exciting development is that AKADAMICS is entering into a partnership with a mentoring organization called Xomidhan (<http://www.xomidhan.org>) for supporting our awardees with more effective mentoring.

An inspiring letter from Bharat, one of our AKADAMICS recipients of 2014 who graduated with a B.Sc degree in summer of 2016. AFNA is proud to be part of Bharat's journey in search of a better future. Our best wishes are always with him.

Respected Sir,

By the grace of GOD hope you are all right there. I have the pleasure to tell you that I'll be completing my graduation after 2 months and it's only because of your scholarship. Without your scholarship, I wouldn't be able to study at North Lakhimpur College. The scholarship greatly helped me to pursue my higher education cost, house rent, fees, etc. I don't know how the scholarship helps other awardees but in case of me, it's great. I'm speechless to express my appreciation for your help. I really think your selection board is good; they selected a needy awardee, like me. If possible then expand the number of awardees and amount.

My family wants to thank all of you and they pray to GOD for your prosperity. I have a request to you, if possible then disburse the amount in 1st week of April (include 2nd and 3rd installments) because we are eligible to apply to different universities and my last form fill up date is 07-04-2016.

I will always remember your help. MAY GOD HELP ALL OF YOU.

Shishu Sarothi update: AFNA is happy to provide a grant of \$1000 to Shishu Sarothi for its Centre for Special Education and Early Intervention Unit. This money is used towards providing 8 special chairs for the children with Cerebral Palsy. The eight children who received the chairs are in the age group 4 years to 12 years old. Each of them was recommended to have a special castor chair with negative sitting, footrest, thigh and foot belt to provide better positioning and maintenance of good posture.



Hirstha Sarma, 4 years old



Himangshu Das, 12 years old

Get Involved:

Monthly volunteer call:
First Sunday, every month,
10am - 11am PT
Dial in: 641-7153272
Access Code - 457920#

We need active volunteers to run our projects. Please reach out to us (contacts above) or join our monthly volunteer meetings to know more.

[Learn about AFNA](#)

Donate:

By check (Pay to: AFNA)
Mailing address:
SARFARAZ TAHER,
TREASURER, AFNA
4391 MCMENEMY ST
VADNAIS HEIGHTS, MN 55127



Support A Child (SAC) update:

AFNA supported over 90 at-risk students in Parijat Academy, Pragyalaya, SHED, Tapoban and others through this key project. Learn more about our SAC project at our website. You can support a child for just \$100 a year and help us to continue and grow this important program.

AFNA is happy to be part of the Homeswar Dev Choudhuri Memorial Scholarships provided to students of Patacharkucchi Girl's High School in Patacharkucchi, Assam. We selected 25 students with financial need with the help of the school administration and provided scholarships to support them to stay in school. The scholarships were distributed at an event held at the school on June 4th, 2016. This new initiative is part of our SAC project.



A Glimpse into AFNA's History and Vision

Assam Foundation of North America was founded in the early eighties as a donor sponsored charitable organization by a few caring, humanitarian Assamese NRIs, most of whom had immigrated to the USA during the early seventies. The goal, then and now, continues to be helping the underprivileged in the North East region through various altruistic projects, either via direct involvement, or via collaborations with similar charitable organizations. As some of us remember during the Assam agitation days in the late seventies, some of the Assamese residents in the USA raised a modest sum of funds to send to help relief workers in Assam. But because of not having any formal centralized non-profit organization transmitting the fund according to USA law to Assam was a big problem. Assamese community couldn't provide any tax benefits to our donors and couldn't continue charitable activities formally the way it is done in the United States. To legally conduct charitable activities in the USA and in India (Assam) in accordance with the USA laws, the Assamese community proposed to create a not-for profit charity organization, that is with federal 501(c)(3) status, to be called the Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA). This was how AFNA was officially incorporated in 1982.

This ongoing effort of supporting charitable causes (for 35+ years) have primarily been in the areas of supporting & mentoring children and young adult's education: such as (1) Support A Child project where children at risk of dropping out of school due to poverty is helped with a \$100 stipend/year, (2) AKADAMICS project which mentors and supports with scholarship academically capable students who are unable to continue college education due to poverty. AFNA has time and again stepped up in providing help and support during natural disasters such as flood (in collaboration with RVC-Rural Volunteers Center) and earthquakes (like Nepal earthquake). It also provides financial security to disabled children & adults and destitute women (in collaboration with organizations such as Atma Nirbhar, Sishu Sarathi, Swabalambi, Tapoban, SHED etc.). Lastly, but not the least, is AFNA's involvement in promoting the native cultural interests of the NE region (such as the culture of Sri Shankardeva).

Compassionate and well-meaning donors' financial support have been crucial for AFNA's success in the past, present and will continue to be for the future. Throughout the of three plus decades of its existence, AFNA has continued to evolve into a more robust organization with strategic and manageable projects which are led and supported by project stewards who work selflessly and relentlessly coordinating with the local volunteers in the NE region.

Through the dedication of a handful of core volunteers who have adopted and inculcated the principles and ethics of hard, determined work AFNA has continued to sustain its cherished projects. Year after year, these volunteers operate in transparent accounting principles (accounts presented at Annual GBM), with a near-zero overhead but facilitate and execute a budget of about \$50,000/year for the greater cause of supporting the needy and underprivileged to a more sustainable future.

But donors and sponsors support are the bloodline of this work, future sustainability will only depend upon continued support and encouragement from the NE region's NRIs who continue to make the North America their new home. So, I appeal to all readers of this report to kindly donate generously to AFNA projects. Please visit the online donation option at www.assamfoundation.net. Visit facebook.com/assamfoundation. And take note that due to its 501(c) (3) status with the IRS, all donations in the US are eligible for tax deductions.



Support AFNA by donating towards one of our projects

AFNA's core projects for the year 2016 require funding of \$35,000. We are less than halfway short to meet our fund raising goal this year and we need your support to raise around \$20,000 more fund before the end of the year. You can help us meet our goal by supporting one of the following key projects that we are focusing this year.

Support-A-Child (SAC)

Goal: Sponsor 100 students at average \$100 each

Funding need: \$10,000

You can support a child's education and help the child stay in school for one year by just donating \$100 for a year. You can choose to continue your support for a child for multiple years if you like. We hope to grow the number of students we support each year with your continued support.

AFNA sponsored Kaushik Das Memorial College Scholarship (AKADAMICS):

Goal: Support college education for 28 students in 2016

Funding need: \$10,000

AFNA initiated AKADAMICS program to identify and support promising college going students who can not continue their education due to poverty. AFNA supports their college education by providing scholarship and mentoring until they complete their degrees. You can support one or more students with a donation of \$500 or more a year.

Support a Disabled Worker

Goal: Provide partial income for 10+ disabled workers in Atma Nirbhar ek Challenge (ANeC)

Funding need: \$5,000

Your donation for this project will enable us to continue our work with ANeC to provide partial employment for more than 30 disabled workers in Guwahati. This program helps the workers to provide 50% of their income by AFNA's support and other 50% by helping them work on local jobs like packaging and selling of tea and spices, making and selling paper bags, etc.

Support a Disabled artisan

Goal: Provide support to 8 master artisans to provide training to 50+ artisans in Swabalambi's self help center.

Funding need: \$5,000

AFNA works with Swabalambi to provide stipends to master disabled artisans to get the necessary training, who otherwise will not have a chance for a better life. Once trained these master artisans are able to provide regular training to over 50 other disabled artisans so that they can learn crucial skills necessary to ensure livelihood on their own.

Help kick off new initiatives like Sishu Sarothi & Seneh:

Goal: Children with special needs do not have adequate avenues of learning in Assam. AFNA works with Shishu Sarothi that runs a day training center for such kids in need and provides any support according to their need. "SENEH" the home for destitute old women: A small effort to rehabilitate women over the age of 50 who do not have a family supporting them and are abandoned by society. AFNA is looking into starting collaboration with Seneh.

Funding need: \$5,000

Support Work-An-Hour initiative: Please see our video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPdEeHxh5LA> for this initiative and help! Just an hour of your income can bring smiles to many and change their lives forever. In this initiative you can pick the project you like to support with your donation.

Join AFNA at Assam Convention in Seattle, July 1st to July 3rd

AFNA is coming to Assam Convention (AC) with a hope to generate more awareness about our work and do some successful fundraising for our projects. Our volunteers will have an AFNA booth throughout the convention near the registration area. We invite everyone to stop by our booth and learn more about our projects and let us know if you would like to join as a volunteer or donate for a cause. Throughout the events at the convention you will hear about AFNA's work and our volunteers will be around to help you with any questions you might have. Our annual **General Body Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at 9.30 am to 11.00am (PST) in room Redmond II** in the hotel, which is one level below the registration area. Please join us at our GBM. Here is a tentative agenda for our GBM on Saturday:

Agenda for AFNA GBM, 2016:

- Last year in review:
 - Projects Highlights – updates about our key projects
 - Finance – our yearly income statement, our project budgets and balance sheet
- Nomination and Election of AFNA officers for 2016-2017:
 - President, Secretary & Treasurer
- Roadmap for 2016:
 - Vision for our projects for 2016-2017
 - Volunteering – what our needs for 2016-2017
 - Membership information
 - Current and future Donors
 - AFNA Youth Leadership Wing – a new chapter that AFNA is excited about

**Support AFNA at AC
by
wearing**



**The button is available
at AFNA booth at AC**

AFNA's goal is to do \$10,000 fundraising at the convention and recruit at least 20 new volunteers. Our success of achieving our goal depends on our donors and supporters. We encourage everyone to stop by AFNA booth and/or attend our GBM to be part of our community. Together we can help the unprivileged people of Assam and North East and be the driver of the socio-economic change that we can bring. You can join our AFNA family to make a difference in someone's life forever.

AFNA Essay Competition 2016: AFNA is excited to launch our first Summer Essay Competition for all students from 8-12 grades! The topic is "How can the North American Youth of Assamese origin contribute to Assam?". We are happy to get good participation for the first time. The winner and runner up for the essay competition will be announced at the Assam Convention and cash prizes and certificates will be distributed in person or by mail. The winning essays will be published in Pronaam. The winners will also be announced at our next newsletter. All participants will receive a participation certificate from AFNA. Essay competition is a part of AFNA's new chapter, **AFNA Youth leadership Wing** to have our talented young minds to start thinking about Assam and North East India.

Checkout AFNA's new website at <http://new.assamfoundation.net/>

Volunteer Email DL:

Subscribes to
afna-vols@freelists.org
at
freelists.org/list/afna-vols

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Donate online