



shooting stars foundation

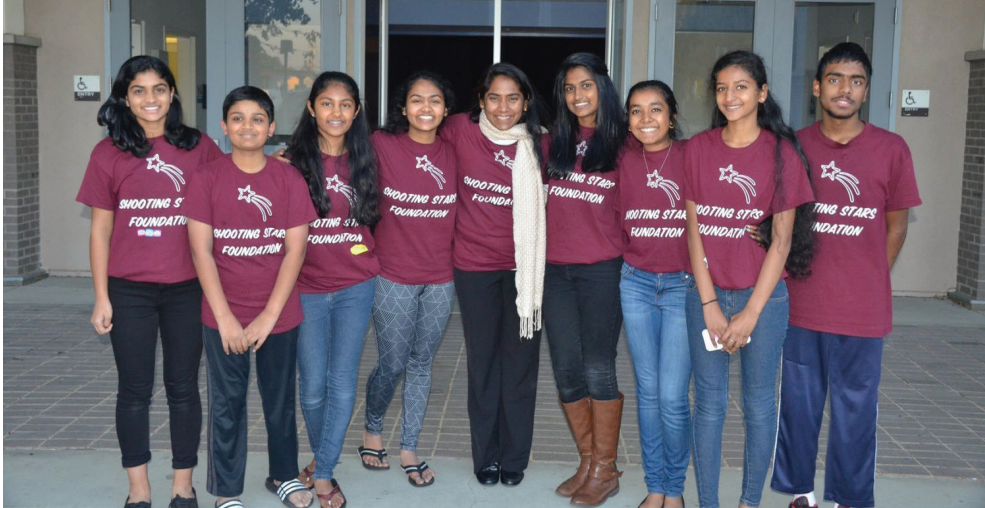
Educate | Empower | Enable



**A YEAR OF FIRSTS**

**2018  
ANNUAL REPORT**

# CEO LETTER



It started off with one young person starting to use his passion and skills to impact the local community and here we are 5 years later reaching globally ! The local high school youth in the US found creative ways to execute activities for local elementary and middle school students, raise funds, and in turn sponsor financial scholarships for college students in need around the world ! The receiving scholars on the other end accepted the scholarship , studied with zeal and now ready to launch a transformational future !

Shooting Stars Foundation has had an incredible journey last few year, but 2018 has been a defining year Together we have supported about 35 college scholars out of which we are proud to announce two of them have graduated and now working ! Most of our scholars will be the first to graduate and they will change the trajectory of their family economics once they graduate.

2018 had been a watershed year for Shooting Stars Foundation as you will read in the pages to follow. Not only did we expand the programs offered by high school youth in the US, but we reached out to individual donors who were exhilarated by the thought of sponsoring and mentoring a student across the world and impacting their life directly ! It has also been gratifying to join hands with multiple corporates in terms of providing programs, volunteering and donation matching . All of this will push us to the next level

We are proud of what we have accomplished so far with a lot of help, but it is just the beginning. We're so glad you're along for the ride ! Together we will change the face of education - one scholar at a time !



Latha Narayannan  
Co-Founder and CEO



# OUR MISSION AND VISION



## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide access to education for those that need it the most. By enabling access to education for one generation, we can empower future generations to break the cycle of poverty



## Our Approach

We make our mission possible through our programs Global Scholars and Scholars for America.

### GLOBAL SCHOLARS:

Leveraging the power of high school student leaders in the United States, we make college possible for first generation college-goers in developing countries. We partner with reputable non-profits in developing countries to identify those in need.

### SCHOLARS FOR AMERICA:

In the United States, our high school leaders support students in low-to-moderate income communities with end of grade readiness for 3rd through 5th grades and hackathons for high schoolers.



# 100

Global Scholars



# 200

Scholars for America

# YEAR OF FIRSTS



## Spring Break Camp Fundraisers

Expanded to 13 Spring break camps in 5 US states, catering to 160 students in 2018. Offerings included common core math and reading , speech, debate and science camps

## First "Adopt-a-Scholar"

"Adopt a Scholar" launched. Individual donors commit to 4-yr education of a global scholar(s). Optional mentoring by donors. Reached 25 donor count



**Michael Segal**  
San Jose, CA



**Kantiya**  
Thailand



## First Flagship Entrepreneurship Camp

Started in the summer of 2018, students had hands on experience and exposure at companies like Google, Nutanix, Uber, Adobe, Netscout etc. 2 camps with about 40 students, 20 speakers and 8 company visits !

## First Flagship Civic Hackathon

First ever Civic Hackathon to help nurture the love of coding and technology at NetScout, San Jose. About 70 students participated expanding our local impact.



## First Dance Fundraiser

Who says fundraising has to be boring? 2 Bollywood Dance themed fundraisers raised the roof for education, providing funding for about 8 global scholars

## First Flagship Scholars for America Program

5 week end-of-grade (common core) readiness program launched in low income elementary schools across 3 cities, 3 schools, catering to 70 students





# 2018 IMPACT

## Global Scholarships

**35** First Generation College Students

**8** Countries

## Scholars for America

**50** US Based students

**3** States



# OUR VERY FIRST GRADUATES!

## Mamtha



Mamtha, a young woman from a village in India was worried about filling the gap created by her father's passing. With a mother laboring in the fields to earn money for her family, Mamtha took on responsibility in her home, all while working to maintain steady grades in hope of a better future.

Her miracle came after a local foundation connected with Shooting Stars and secured the funds necessary to support her college endeavors. Now, after hard work and dedication, Mamtha is employed as a doctor in a nearby hospital, working to better her community in any way she can.

Her first mission? Supporting those afflicted with HIV, the very disease that took her father. Instead of worrying about her future, Mamtha now hopes to expand her education and foster her love of pediatrics. Now, Mamtha can support her mother, proudly telling her that she will never have to work again. And it's not just her financial stability that has transformed-it's Mamtha herself. As a shy girl, Mamtha has blossomed into a confident woman ready to transform her world.

***"It's a great feeling," Mamtha says. "It gives me joy... I am achieving what I set out to do."***

## Wang Xi



Having a sibling means the world to Wang Xi-but it also meant punishment for her parents. Living in the Shanxi province in China, the family was forced to pay heavy compensation for Wang's brother due to China's one-child policy.

Her parents were forced to hunt for extra jobs, leaving the heavy burden of responsibility to fall on Wang's shoulders.

Working hard to excel in school and care for her brother, Wang hoped for an opportunity to attend college. But her parent's financial stress seemed inescapable-until she contacted Shooting Stars. With the much-needed scholarship, Wang was able to attend college, and work hard to improve her English. Instead of worrying about her next meal, Wang was able to focus on her academics.

She spent countless hours poring over her textbooks, waking up early to study. Her resilience and persistence eventually led to her employment at a Railroad Company. Wang is now filled with a sense of accomplishment, helping her parents and ensuring a brighter future for her brother.

***"Working gives me a good beginning" explains Wang, in an optimistic and grateful letter. "I have a new goal: help those in difficulty around me."***

# MEET A FEW OF OUR CURRENT SCHOLARS



When Annitah Zablon was three years old, she was forced to face the world without her parents. Living in the largest slum in Nairobi, her desperate mother sent her children to live with their aunt. The aunt could barely afford two meals a day, forcing Annitah to shoulder responsibility. Thoughts of her father plagued Annitah, who believed her future held nothing more than farming: life seemed hopeless. But a miracle saved her. A local teacher connected Annitah to Shooting Stars and helped her fulfill her dream of attending college. Now, Annitah studies as a Public Relations major, hoping to help her local community advocate for their own ideas.

***“It’s a dream come true,”** Annitah explains. **“I’m really grateful. Shooting Stars brought light into my life once more.”***

Rajadurai, a young student from Melamathur, India, was wary about his future. While his work ethic and intelligence produced superior grades, his daily labor parents’ income could not support his dream of college. All hope seemed lost-until he connected with Shooting Stars. Now, the medical prodigy has the capability to apply his intellect and become a doctor. Rajadurai is now one year away from achieving his dream. He plans to return to his roots and establish a local hospital



***“I want to help people,”** Rajadurai explains, as he articulates his vision for the future. From educating his community about suicide and aiming to join the army’s medical camps, Rajadurai is filled with enthusiasm and dedication. For the first time, his future is limitless..*



In Afghanistan, a young woman dreamt of making a difference. Roya, a 12th grader with a passion for helping others, had little hopes for her future. Suffering from a variety of health ailments, most of her parent’s meager income was spent on doctors, rather than education. But after connecting with Shooting Stars, Roya was able to pursue her interests and is studying to become a midwife. Now, she is helping those who need it most: women.

***“There was a time I was thinking whether we Afghan girls could ever get a chance or have a future.”** Roya writes. **“Now, I believe we can help our country.”** With the help of Shooting Stars, her dream was made into a reality*



# MEET OUR DONORS



**Ken and Melissa  
Boyd, Reno**

*Kases, Shantel - Kenya*

My wife, Melissa Boyd, and I sponsor three major charities. We chose Shooting Stars Foundation as one, mainly because we know that the donated funds go directly to wards - cause that we believe in and not towards unnecessary administrative overhead.

Education is the catalyst for future opportunity, self-sustainability, and leadership. We focused on college education for Kenyan students - an example of where scholarship and mentorship can make the difference between poverty and a productive environment .



**Kavitha and Dr.  
Somasundaram, Kentucky**

*Dheenadhayalan - India*

We decided to sponsor Dheenadhayalan who is doing his medical degree in Chennai, India. He resonated well with my husband who practises medicine , as well as my son who has now just started medical college. They are able to relate well with him during our conversations. We are amazed at how well Dheenadhayalan is doing despite the humble background he comes from. We are privileged to play a small part in his future.



**Mary Roussos,  
San Diego**

*Joy, Faith - Kenya*

Shooting Stars Foundation has giuven us a meaningful way to provide important opportunities to young women in our global village.

I recently had my first conference call with two women we are sponsoring - Joy and Faith. We really appreciated getting a real sense of their lives, the challenges they have faced, and overcome, and the clarity of their visions for the future.

The chance to continue these conversations, to give them encouragement and mentoring, is exciting. A fringe benefit for me is that I get to practice my few Kiswahili phrases with native speakers.

I look forward to growing from this experience as much, if not more, than those I am helping.



# FINANCIALS AND HONOR ROLL

\$106,700



Funds Raised

\$11,100



Expenses

\$19,000



Scholarships

## 2018 Financials

*\*\*2019 Commitments for current scholars - 14,000*

*Funds Raised include Camp Revenue, Individual donations, corporate matches, volunteer hour matches*

*Expenses include camp expenses, marketing, fees etc*

*Scholarships are tuition and boarding fees paid to scholars.*

**We are extremely grateful to our individual donors and companies that have supported us.**

Aarti Patil, Fremont, CA  
Ashwin Ramanathan, Union City, CA  
Anandhi Sarathy, Portland, OR  
Atirek Sharma, Cupertino, CA  
Bala and Avanti, San Ramon, CA  
Dhandapani, Fremont, CA  
Ezhil Sairam, San Jose, CA  
Kalyani Golla, Fremont, CA  
Kavitha Somasundaram, KY  
Ken Boyd, Reno, NV

Manickam and Tina, San Francisco, CA  
Mary Roussos, San Diego, CA  
Meena Ramanathan, Las Vegas, NV  
Meena Vellayappan, Fremont, CA  
Michael Segal, San Jose CA  
Neela and Ramu, Portland, OR  
Rajadurai Asirvadham, Fremont, CA  
Raji Srinivasan, Boston, MA  
Sivagami and Sundaram, San Jose, CA

Sowmiya Narasimhan, Fremont, CA  
Subha Singaram, Portland, OR  
Subhashini Yegappan, Fremont, CA  
Suganya Jayaraman, Fremont, CA  
Sumathi and Thothadri, Chennai, India  
Thor Wallace, Boston, MA  
Vaiju and Dinesh, Boston, MA  
Vasantha and Ganesan, San Ramon, CA  
Yashodha, Portland, OR

**THANKS FOR MATCHING YOUR EMPLOYEE DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEER HOURS**



**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAMPS**



# LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on 2018, we are humbled and honored by the support and faith of all the volunteers who made it a great success.

Our goal for 2019 is to provide undergraduate scholarship and mentorship for 35 students in developing countries. We will continue to mobilize our high school leaders to find innovative ways to raise funds – through entrepreneurship programs, summer camps and many more.

Locally, we relentlessly strive to make a difference through our Scholars for the American program. Our goal for 2019 is to expand to 5 schools in low income neighborhoods.

And this is not all: we have audacious goals. We aim to support up to 100 global scholars and 200 students in schools from low-to-moderate income communities in the US by 2020. But we cannot achieve those without your help.

Thank you for being part of the journey - whether it is fund raising, being a mentor for our global scholars, or donating your time and money – you have made this possible.

We look forward to partnering with you to make an even bigger difference in the lives of those that need the most.

Please contact us to find out more about our foundation, or ways to get involved!

Shooting Stars Foundation  
2197, Plumleigh Dr,  
Fremont, CA – 94539  
**[www.shooting-stars-foundation.org](http://www.shooting-stars-foundation.org)**  
[support@ssfoundation.org](mailto:support@ssfoundation.org)



**shooting stars foundation**  
Educate | Empower | Enable