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By enabling access to **education** for one generation,
we can empower them to break the cycle of poverty

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Exponential Growth

CEO Letter

Greetings Shooting Stars Family,

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many challenges on a personal, local, and global scale. At the same time, this pandemic has highlighted many inequities in our society, and reaffirms why our organization's mission to break the cycle of poverty through education is so important. While the challenges of this year are not yet over, we feel that it is still important to share and celebrate the strides that we have made as an organization throughout 2019.



When summing up 2019 for Shooting Stars Foundation, one word comes to mind - **GROWTH**. The fact that we have grown from supporting **35 scholars** in 2018 to **120 scholars** in 2019 speaks volumes to the strength of our Shooting Stars community. This year our Nebula Camps division of Shooting Stars doubled the number of entrepreneurship camps offered from 10 to 20. We also had two successful music and dance fundraisers that enabled us to sponsor many more students.

We have not only seen growth in our scholar sponsorship, but also in the connections that we have made with our students. This year we have expanded our **Scholars for America** program in order to give back locally. We also had opportunities for volunteer mentors to meet with our scholars from across the globe, which were heartwarming experiences all around. Additionally, we initiated **Scholar Mentorship Program**, which has provided our scholars guidance from our volunteers.

2019 has been a year of exponential growth for Shooting Stars Foundation, and none of this would have been possible without the work of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of our donors and corporate partners. I am excited to share our annual report with you so you can see first-hand the passion and hard work that has made our organization what it is today. I am so proud of what our Shooting Stars family has achieved in just one year and I am excited to see how we will continue to grow in years to come. Thank you for joining us on this journey to combat poverty through investing in the education of the future generation.

Immense thanks to our committed editors and designers of this annual report – Elisa Muresan, Dheepa Nanduri, Vijay Ilavarasan, Meena Vellayapan and Preetha Vellayapan

Latha Narayannan

CEO – Shooting Stars Foundation



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2019 Key Accomplishments

We are truly humbled by the trust and generosity of our donors, partners and volunteers that helped us soar new heights in 2019!

120

scholars

(35 in 2018)

↑ **250%**

We made **college education** possible for 120 students in 2019 which is almost 4x the scholars we had in 2018. We added scholars from several new countries and new states in India.



High School leaders organized over 20 camps doubling the 10 camps from 2018 - Entrepreneurship Camps, Hackathons, Spring Camps, Summer Camps and more.

Through a formal application and selection process, 30 high school officers joined the foundation to make a difference in their communities, bringing our total volunteer count to 75.

In addition, we hosted 2 major **performing arts fund raiser** events that raised funds at levels that exceeded expectations!

\$ **200**_K

funds raised

(100k in 2018)

↑ **100%**

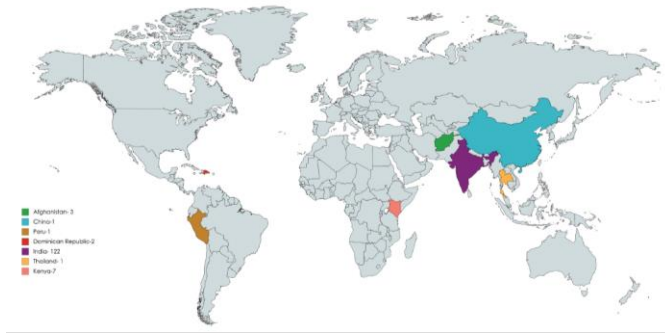


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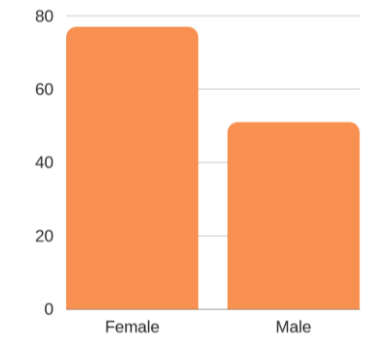
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Who are our Scholars?

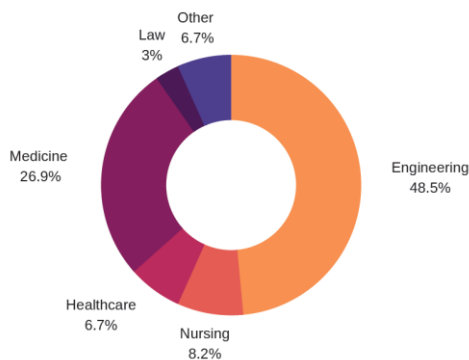
Geographic Distribution



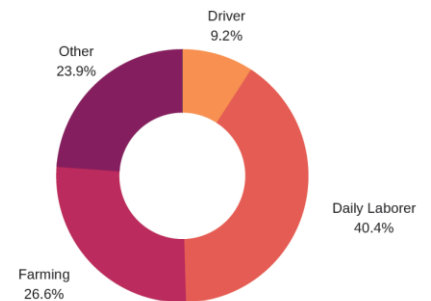
Student Gender



Student Major



Parent Occupation



Scholar Spotlight

Banupriya, India, B.E. Computer Science

Professional Plans: Recently secured employment with Accenture as a software developer.

Proudest Personal Achievement: Banupriya is very proud that even with her family circumstances and late start to education she was able to compete with others and get a spot in computer engineering.

Giving Back: Banupriya is grateful for the aid she has received and pledges to donate 7% of her income to help others pursue education.

Advice to Others:

"Whatever the situation is, we will handle."

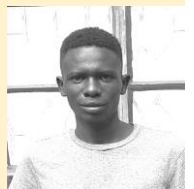


Kases, Kenya, Diploma in Info Tech

First In The Family: Kases is the only person in the family to pursue studies beyond school. A lot of village children look up to him and want to emulate his achievements.

Aspirations: Upon completing his diploma, Kases would like to gain admission to a degree program and ultimately work in web development. Kases dreams of working in the city and using his earnings to support his family and others with similar backgrounds.

Self-Realization: "If I find joy in doing a certain work, I engage in it for a large part of the day, or even, all day without tiring."



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Donor-Scholar Connections

One of the differentiating aspects of our “**Adopt-a-Scholar**” program is the connections that donors and scholars establish, in which donors serve as mentors for the scholars. This year, a few mentors and scholars were able to meet in person and further their mentor-mentee connections.



Karthick, an engineering student, sponsored by Maniam (Donor)

They met in person in 2019. Maniam says "I discovered that he is interested in poetry and dabbles in writing poetry as well. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to help"

Karthick says "My father and I met Maniam Anna. We talked about my future goals."

Maniam adds that he has been keeping in touch with Karthick through WhatsApp encouraging him to leverage the COVID downtime to expand his communication skills.

Yashoda (Donor):

"We were going to India and I wanted to meet with Alex. I checked with SSF and the whole team facilitated the meeting. My whole family met him. It took a while to break the ice but then we connected. "More than the financial assistance, the scholars need **mentorship and moral support**"

Alex Pandian (Scholar):

"Thank you to Yashoda Akka and her family. I have been to their house. Thank you all for giving me this amazing platform."



Vaiju (Donor):

"I got a chance to meet **Abinaya Pandian** in January 2020 at my residence in Coimbatore. My family was delighted to speak with her, especially my daughter who is 8 and was so curious to get to know her. Abinaya was so friendly and was comfortable talking to me and my family."

"Abhinaya shared her best and painful experiences as a medical student. It was quite revelatory. Overall it was a wonderful experience and I'm blessed to have such moments through SSF."



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Donor Journey

Donate and make a difference for a generation

Being a Shooting Stars Foundation donor is an amazing opportunity to make a true impact on the lives of deserving students around the world. By being a donor-mentor, you have the chance to not only fund a student's education, but also make a personal impact on their lives by offering them advice and support. See how our donor-mentor process works through the stories of some of our valued donors.

1. COMMIT to sponsorship - Commit to make an impact on the life of a deserving student.



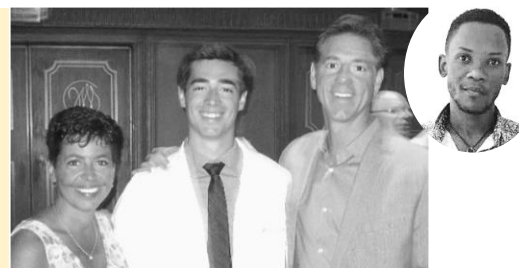
Donor: **Ramya & Karthik** Scholar: **Ajitha**

"Education is a gift that not only transforms the individual but creates illumination around all those whose lives it touches. Being able to provide the opportunity to a willing and committed student is our privilege. We committed to sponsor Ajitha, a brilliant MBBS student from Chennai. We were struck by the transparency and commitment shown by Shooting Stars. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to fulfill dreams and inspire others!"

2. CHOOSE a scholar - Chose and support a scholar whose background, region or language resonates with you.

Donor: **Brian & Rosy** Scholar: **Roberson**

"We find it much more rewarding to be sponsoring a known individual into a career that provides long-term value to them and society, rather than generic funding to institutions that mask the individuals or majors covered. And when we saw Roberson taking up the same medical career as our son did, it was a perfect match!"



3. CONNECT with scholar - Connect with or Mentor your scholar through phone calls, video calls, messages



Donor: **Kavitha & Vincent** Scholar: **Hajira**

"Mentoring our scholar, Hajira, is a pleasure. We wanted to sponsor a medical student and preferably a girl because we have two sons. It is with pride that we watch Hajira work towards her MBBS degree. We mostly keep in touch through WhatsApp where it is easy to video call as well as send messages. During these trying pandemic times, we make sure she knows we are thinking of her"

4. CELEBRATE your scholar's success - Be proud that you have made the choice to not only invest in a student's future but also forge a meaningful lifelong connection with them.

Donor: **Subha & Prabakar** Scholar: **Mamta**

"We are very happy and proud that Mamta has graduated from her medical program and that we had the opportunity to play a small part in it. It is incredible that such a small contribution from our side could make such big difference in a student's life! I speak to Mamta regularly and feel a sisterly bond with her. I feel a calling to always be a part of her life! We want to help her with her higher studies. We are certain she will achieve great successes in her life!"



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Giving Back Locally

Shooting Stars Foundation doesn't just make a difference internationally, we also work to transform our local communities within the United States. Whether it's tutoring in elementary schools, organizing hackathons for underrepresented minorities, or providing free entrepreneurship camps to low-income students, Shooting Stars Foundation sets the foundation for success locally!



Scholars for America

Born in 2017, the Scholars for America program empowers high schoolers to make a difference in their communities by traveling to schools in low-income neighborhoods and tutoring elementary school students. Our programs in Georgia, North Carolina, and California have profoundly impacted 150+ students across 6 schools. Shooting Stars High school officers become mentors to these students, giving them the confidence and support they need to succeed. Our high school volunteers are inspired when kids who had struggled with basic multiplication the first day, proudly show off their perfect scores on an assignment. Scholars for America gives high school students a purpose and an avenue to give back to their communities.



Let's hear from Nikhita - the founder of the Scholars for America Program

Working to help others through the Shooting Stars Foundation gives you a sense of purpose and pride. You grow as a person while helping change the lives of others. I've always been someone who was eager to please and wary of failure. But after becoming involved with Shooting Stars, and having had the opportunity to start Scholars for America, that fear has given way to tenacity. I'm not afraid to approach schools or organizations unfamiliar to me with proposals for Scholars for America. This program gives me a reason to work hard and shrug off failures. Join us at Shooting Stars Foundation if you want to make a difference in your community and develop your leadership skills.



Equal Access Career Development Opportunities

Free hackathons and entrepreneurship camps are offered to students from minority and low-income communities. Both of these programs cultivate problem-solving and critical thinking skills while connecting students with professional mentors who motivate and support them. By providing students access to professional development resources they may not have had otherwise, we hope to help students grow and achieve their career goals.



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2019 High School Officers Team



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Programs of Impact

Bollywood Bash – San Ramon, Apr 2019

A fun filled evening and smashing success! Initially expecting 200 attendees, we were humbly blown away by the nearly 600 participants. With a strong volunteer group putting in over 300 hours, **Prashanthi Tallapaneni** and team raised funds to cover 4 years of college expenses for 10 underprivileged students. A San Ramon donor was impressed that SSF is deeply interested in the holistic development of their underprivileged students, making them “Good Citizens” of the world - flourishing academically and paying it forward. **San Ramon attendees generously contributed \$20,000!**



SSF Scholars Regional Summit

The focus of this summit was personal development of scholars. There were seminars focused on building confidence, motivation, and career development.

Santhiya (Med Student): “I used to dream about researching cures for many diseases in the future, but I had my doubts. Seeing and hearing the career discussion panel and realizing how much you all impact, gives me confidence that I can also do it !”

Pradeep (Engg Student): “The best motivation class I have ever heard from Dr Kaleeshwaran. He explained the entire life philosophy in 2 hours and has created a spark in us!”



Ethical Doctors Meet – Nov 2019

Shooting Stars does its part to develop ethical doctors. A group of 25 medical students supported by SSF came together to learn “The Making of a Doctor” focusing on ethical principles and contributing to the greater good of the society.



SSF Family Event – Jul 2019

A group of 45 scholars (Engineers and Doctors) and their families attended a 1-day event comprising motivational workshops and lively interaction with SSF officers and volunteers from the U.S., building strong connections between the east and the west.

SSF New Students Meet – Dec 2019

Around 30 new SSF scholars gathered as a family and exchanged heartwarming personal stories. All of them made friends for life that day and departed with a commitment to pay it forward!



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Shooting Stars Entrepreneurship Programs

The Shooting Stars Entrepreneurship Camps were created in the summer of 2018 by Vaarun Ramanathan. The goal was to encourage high school students to create their own companies through the guidance and mentorship of industry professionals. The camps consist of workshops that teach entrepreneurial concepts such as marketing and finance while developing the participants' business ideas into viable business plans that they then pitch to a panel of investors. What sets these programs apart is the opportunity given to all participants to job shadow and interact with business executives at local startups and Fortune 500 companies. Since its inception, the Shooting Stars entrepreneurship division had skyrocketed to new heights and continues to inspire high school students across the nation.



Vaarun Ramanathan: When I started volunteering with the Shooting Stars Foundation, I was very excited to be able to create educational programs in the US that would have a lasting impact on students in developing countries. After founding the Shooting Stars Entrepreneurship Division, watching it expand across the nation, and realizing how many teens I was able to inspire, I saw that we were making an impact locally as well. Being part of the Shooting Stars Foundation has allowed me to share my passion for entrepreneurship with teens around the country, while also empowering other passionate high school students to be leaders in their own communities. When I hear the amazing feedback of how our entrepreneurship programs have helped high school students shape their career paths and passions, I feel grateful to be a part of this empowering organization. Connect on [LinkedIn](#)



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Meet our Alumni Officers



Alumni Akhil Ganti

SSF | Vice-President 2012-2014
UPenn Graduate | Data Scientist

My most memorable experience as a Shooting Stars Officer was seeing more kids participate in our tutoring camps each year and helping them reach their goals!

Impact

It is truly amazing to see how far Shooting Stars has come recently and how many people the organization has helped. It's definitely a big step up from when we started out helping our first cohort of kids in Ajit's living room!

Accomplishment

As the Vice-President when SSF was first founded, I'm proud to have been able to help grow the organization to sponsor its first international students in Mexico and India :)

"A big step up from the founder's living room!"

"...previous leaders, volunteers help build a framework for success!"



Alumni Devi Nallakumar

SSF | President - 2015
Fremont, California | Medical Student

My most memorable experience as a part of SSF was being able to see elementary school students from various backgrounds share the same excitement about education :)

Impact

Shooting Stars has been able to grow tremendously in the past couple of years, but this wouldn't have been possible without the help of the previous leaders, volunteers, and students who helped build a framework. I'm proud to have been one of those people!

Accomplishment

Even though things were being done in a much smaller scale compared to now, I feel privileged to have been President in 2015 when SSF opened 9 new branches across the nation and donated approximately \$14,000 to both local and international organizations



Alumni Kaaviya Saravanan

SSF | Location Operations VP- 2019
Fremont, California | College Freshman

My most memorable experience as a part of Shooting Stars Foundation was being able to meet firsthand some of the scholars that SSF funds in India. It was an amazing and surreal experience!

Impact

I'm amazed by how much the organization has grown and expanded over the past few years. I'm happy to have been one of those people who have helped make both a global and nationwide difference.

Accomplishment

I joined Shooting Stars in 8th grade when it was focused on Common Core camps and I had the privilege of helping expand the organization across different fields. As well as occupying different positions, I also got to create the Creative Writing course and co-head the Scholars for America program.

"... can't wait to see all the ways this organization continue to grow!"

"... make global and nationwide difference"



Alumni Trisha Sarathi

SSF | STEAM-a-Thon VP, 2019
San Jose, California | College Freshman

My most memorable experience with SSF was the day my team and I conducted SSF's first Steam-a-Thon competition. It was so rewarding to see all the teams compete and show their creativity with various science topics.

Impact

Shooting Stars Foundation has grown so much since the time I started in 2014. With so many new programs and camps, I'm so impressed with all the new ideas that volunteers come up with. I'm so grateful to be a part of this organization and can't wait to see all the ways it will continue to grow!

Accomplishment

I joined Shooting Stars Foundation when I was in 6th grade, running an annual Common Core Camp for a few years in the San Jose location. Along with that, I created flyers, social media posts, and maintained a blog for SSF. During my junior of high school, I collaborated with the Portland team to initiate SSF's first STEAM-a-Thon competition!



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Portland Spotlight



Rangeela Music Fundraiser – Feb 2019

Every ticketed person showed up! Fantastic show by a Seattle music troupe with some high school volunteers performing. Candid and moving story of our medical scholar Rajadurai and his donor's journey inspired 30+ audience members to adopt a scholar. A huge success for **Subha Singaram** and her team of core and event volunteers who spent more than 400+ hours organizing the event.

Fundraised \$40,000!



Meenu and Sethu

Providing means for education has been very gratifying for us. As donors, we are blessed to have adopted Jayashree and Gnanasundari as our scholars. We are eager to see them graduate as a doctor and an engineer. Shooting Stars has been incredible in helping us select deserving scholars. The transparent approach and open platform to connect with the scholars has made it a very pleasant experience.

Ananthan and Regina

Having risen from being a farm worker from a remote village in India to a first generation college grad and small business owner in the US, Regina and I are no less a witness to the vision of Shooting Stars Foundation "break the cycle of poverty through education". It's a true privilege for us to support these incredibly talented scholars as they are not only going to build a better future for their own families but will also be role models, enable and empower the society around them.



Krishna and Pradeepa

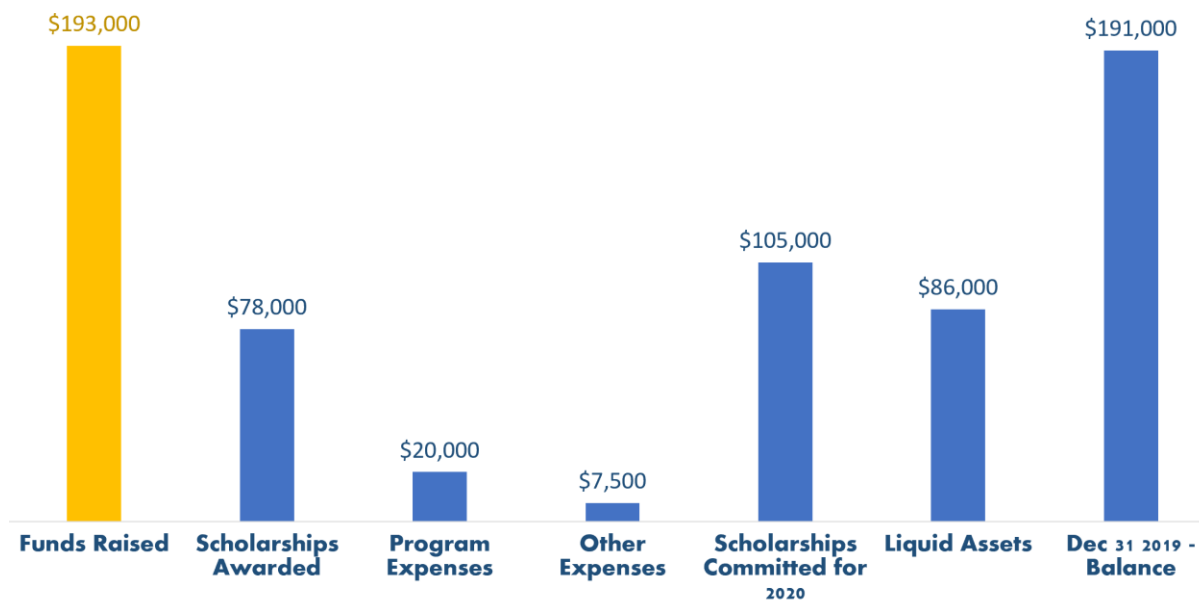
I enjoyed the Kadal Sadugudu event. The talent was incredible, and it was a very professional show. Event was well organized. It was a memorable, enjoyable and a meaningful evening for my family.



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2019 Financials



Looking Ahead

2019 has been a year of remarkable growth that will surely go down in Shooting Stars history! Thanks to our volunteers, donors, and scholars around the globe, we are building the foundation for a world where every student has the opportunity to succeed. With Covid-19, we know our work is more important than ever, and if we carry this momentum forward, there is no doubt we will grow exponentially in the year 2020.

120 scholars was a great number for 2019, but in 2020 we are challenging ourselves to double this number. In addition to funding scholars through direct donors and online fundraisers, we want to tap into raising money through our youth led volunteer programs. Our local youth led technology and entrepreneurship camps are steadily gaining popularity and we aim to expand this division of Shooting Stars Foundation. In 2020 we hope to strengthen these programs by building more corporate and professional partnerships. We also hope to harness the power of youth by recruiting more youth leader-volunteers who can bring new ideas to the table. We think this focus on youth leaders is fitting as our organization was co-founded by two young students who wanted to help more young people access education. With our model, we will simultaneously help local students develop leadership skills while funding the education of students globally.

Beyond fundraising, 2020 will also be a year to focus on building connections with our scholars and helping them reach their personal and professional goals. The scholars are truly the heart of our organization, and in the coming year, we are committed to having more mentorship opportunities, English coaching and job interview preparation.

Thank you to everyone who has been on this journey of growth with us, whether you are a scholar, donor, volunteer or a friend. 2020 will undoubtedly be a challenging year, but we are not letting Covid prevent us from serving our scholars and pushing the organization forward. We encourage you to pass along this annual report to anyone who may be interested in being a part of a transparent grassroots organization where they can directly see the impact of their donation. With your help, we can create a world where every student has an equal opportunity to realize their dreams.



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Thank You 2019 Donors – *Our Heartfelt Gratitude!*

1	Kavitha Arokiadoss Rayappa
2	Akila Nanda
3	Anand Muralidharan
4	Anandhi Sarathy
5	Andy Yuan
6	Anil Balwanti
7	Anita Lovkesh
8	Ankur Garg
9	Anupa Kuppuswamy
10	Apsara Bhattarai
11	Arvind Thakkalapalli
12	Atirek Sharma
13	Avanthi Bala
14	Balaji Ramaswamy
15	Balaji Vasudevan
16	Barath Palanisamy
17	Bhaskar Uthnumalliah
18	Brian McCann
19	Chandra Ranganathan
20	Chithra Mohanasundaram
21	Deepak Selvanathan
22	Deviusha Krishnamoorthy
23	Dhanda Dharumalingam
24	Dheepa Nanduri
25	Dinesh Ramakrishnan
26	Ezhil Sairam
27	Fathima Sajid
28	Geetha Annamalai
29	Guru Mohan
30	Harjinder Singh
31	Harsha Silina
32	Ilavarasan Shenbagam
33	Jayanthi Alphones
34	Joanna Biernacka
35	Kala Kumar
36	Kalyani Golla
37	Karthik Chandramouli
38	Kavitha Somasundaram
39	Ken Boyd
40	Konguraj Kulanthavel
41	Krishna Reghupathy
42	Lakshman Rao
43	Lakshmi Balakrishnan
44	Lavanya Borra
45	Manish Harsh
46	Mary Roussos
47	Meena Ramanathan
48	Meena Nallakumar
49	Meena Munshi
50	Meena Vellayppan

51	Meenu Sethu
52	Michael Segal
53	Muthu Chocku
54	Nalini Krishnan
55	Nandakumar Rangaswamy
56	Neela Ramanathan
57	Nirmal Sigamani
58	Prameya Kirtikar
59	Preethi Baskaran
60	Preethi Premkumar
61	Priya Balaji
62	Radhika Appachar
63	Raghavendra Appanagiri
64	Rajadurai Asirvadham
65	Raji Srinivasan
66	Rama Vasu
67	Ramanathan Chinnayegappan
68	Ramya Vaikkam
69	Roopa Ramraj
70	Sembu Kanthilal
71	Sivagami Sundaram
72	Sowmiya Parthasarathy
73	Subha Singaram
74	Subhashini Yegappan
75	Sudha Vajjhala
76	Sudhakar Pitchumani
77	Ramesh Padmanabhan
78	Suganya Jayaraman
79	Suresh /Somu/ Madi Duthiraju
80	Thor Wallace
81	Tina and Manickam
82	Uma Kannan
83	Umasree Sathyasekaran
84	Usha Sarathi
85	Vadivuu Nathan
86	Vaiju Dinesh
87	Vanithambikai Muthusamy
88	Vasantha Ganesan
89	Vasanthi Vasudevan
90	Venkat Kandula
91	Venkatasubramaniam Palanivelu
92	Vidya Ramachandran
93	Vij and Sujatha Rajarajan
94	Viji Ashok
95	Yashodha Duraisamy
96	Several Anonymous Donors



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Thank You Partner Organizations



Thank You for Matching Employee Donations and Volunteer Hours



NETSCOUT.

Thank You for Sponsoring Our Camps



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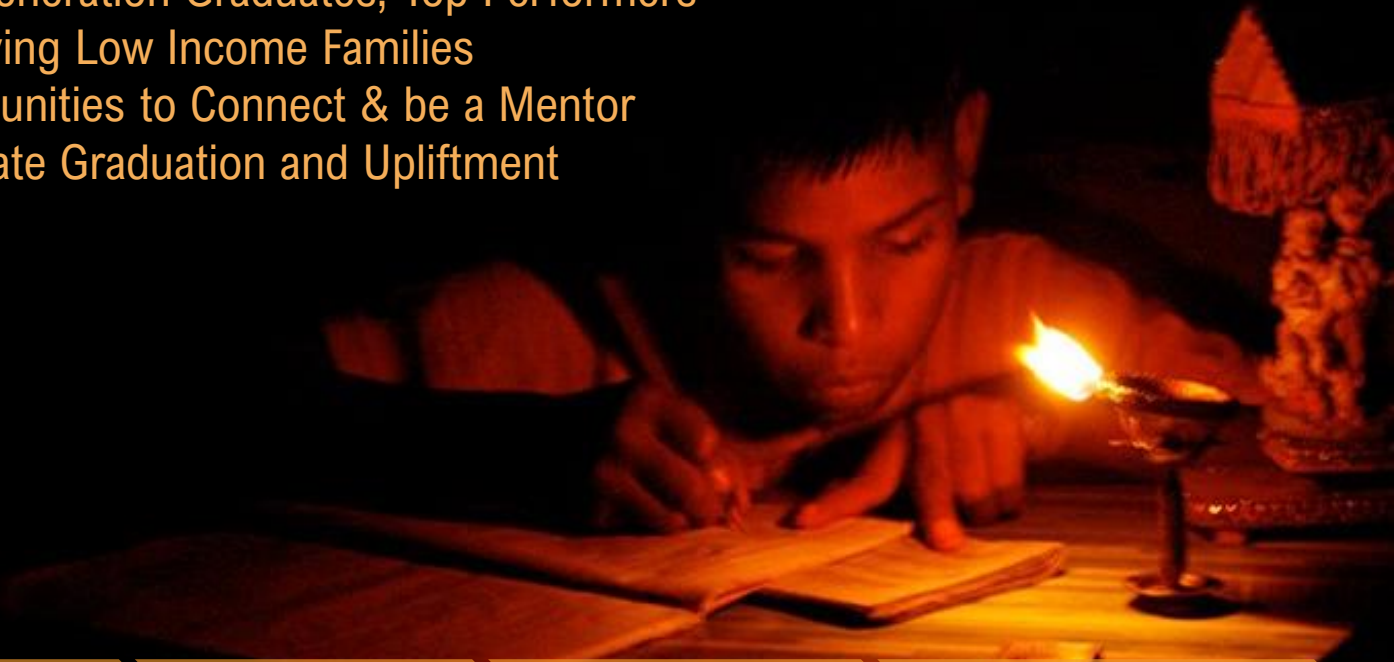
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ADOPT A SCHOLAR

You can make a difference

- ✓ Motivated Medical/Engineering Scholars
- ✓ First Generation Graduates; Top Performers
- ✓ Deserving Low Income Families
- ✓ Opportunities to Connect & be a Mentor
- ✓ Celebrate Graduation and Upliftment



COMMIT 

CHOOSE 

CONNECT 

CELEBRATE 



By enabling access to **education** for one generation,
we can empower them to break the cycle of poverty

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Avail corporate donation matches, volunteer grants & tax deductions