



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

Educate | Empower | Enable

# Annual Report 2021

Sparking Sustainable Futures

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# CEO Letter



Dear Shooting Stars Supporters,

While 2021 was better than 2020 in many ways, we still faced the impact of the ongoing pandemic and an unstable environment. Despite these challenges, several things remained the same:

- Unwavering support of our donors
- Commitment of corporate and community partners
- Leadership and determination of our scholars

The effectiveness of the Shooting Stars model continued to prove itself, even in the midst of a turbulent year. In 2021, Shooting Stars:

- Served 570 scholars for college sponsorship and holistic training in India and Africa
- Hosted over 65 STEM programs in the US, approximately 750 students attended the above STEM programs with over 50% of attendees from underserved communities
- Was awarded the "Innovation in Education" award for our STEM programs
- Received our very first grant from F5 Networks, which formed the basis for future grants
- Formed a diverse Governing Board

We continued to create pathways that made it possible for students from underserved communities to increase their interest in STEM and start on their journey to sustainable economic mobility.

As a cofounder and CEO, particularly in 2021, I have become even more convinced of the strength and stability of our model and the impact it has on our students and communities. With your support, we will continue to build on our learnings and expand our work to realize a future where equal opportunity and economic justice are achievable for all.

I extend my huge thanks to co-editors of this Annual Report - Dheepa, Meena, Mariel, Vijay and designer - Patty.

Cheers,  
Latha Narayannan

P.S - Scholar names have been changed to protect identity.





# Our Mission



“

Empower individuals and communities to break the cycle of generational poverty through STEM education

”







## 2,025 by 2025

### EDUCATE



#### STEM Educational Programs

Provide STEM Programming to 2,025  
Underserved Students by 2025



#### STEM College Scholarships

Provide Financial Support to 2,025  
Scholars by 2025

### EMPOWER



#### Long Term Scholar Success

Mentorship and Training

### ENABLE

# Our Impact



## Scholarships

**573**  
SCHOLARS SERVED



First  
Generation  
College  
Students

50%



Median Annual  
Household  
Income Of  
Scholar Families

<\$2,000



**95%**

\*INCREASE IN SCHOLARS



**278**

\*NEW SCHOLARS



## STEM Programs



**65**

STEM PROGRAMS HOSTED

**~750**

STUDENTS SERVED

## Donors



**248**  
DONORS



**74**

\*NEW DONORS

**43%**

\*INCREASE IN DONORS



\* 2021 Numbers

# Setting Up For Success



Our Adopt A Scholar Program goes beyond financial support. Throughout their time with Shooting Stars, scholars receive a series of trainings to set them up for success.

## YEAR 1:

HELLO ENGLISH TRAINING  
TECHNICAL TRAINING



## YEAR 2:

MILT - PUBLIC SPEAKING,  
INTERVIEW AND LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING



## YEAR 3:

CAREER PLACEMENT  
TRAINING

## Job Placement Success

The collage features logos for partner companies on the left and right sides. On the left, the logos are Samsung, Bosch, Capgemini, and L&T Power. On the right, the logos are Goldman Sachs, Mastercard, Cognizant, and Wipro. In the center, there are six square portraits of scholars. The top row shows three scholars: a young man in a blue shirt, a young woman in a pink and blue patterned top, and another young woman in a red and black patterned top. The bottom row shows three scholars: a young woman in a white lab coat holding a book, a young woman in a white lab coat with a stethoscope, and a young man in a white lab coat with a stethoscope.

**2021 Cohort – 11 Scholars Placed**

**2022 Cohort – 22 Scholars Placed**



After I started attending Hello English Training, I found a drastic difference in my English speaking skills. Since the training was done through an app, I was able to take the classes at my own pace. Thank you SSF and Hello English for providing this great opportunity.

– Gowri Yogesh Kumar



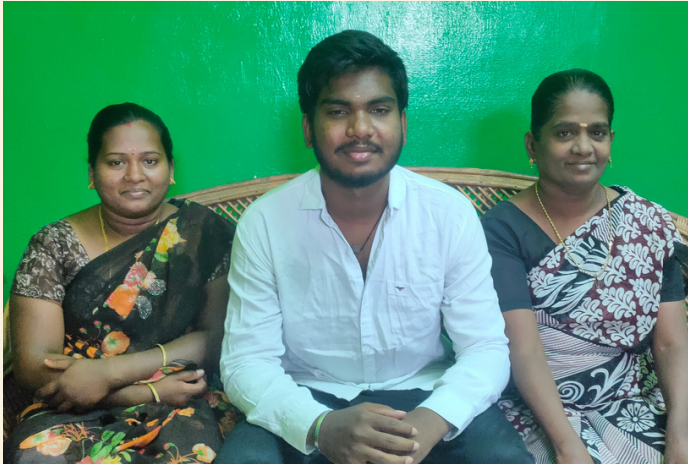
MILT Peak Performance Workshop was not just a public speaking course, it was a holistic leadership training. MILT helped me realize my leadership skills – I would like to thank SSF for giving me this opportunity to attend such an excellent workshop.

– Kritika Kumari





# Success Through Grit



Thamil is a determined and hard-working young man. Having lost his father to a road accident as a toddler, Thamil and his older sister were raised solely by their mother who worked as a tailor.

Thamil earned admission to Sri Krishna Engineering College, India. Though he was able to secure an educational loan, it covered only half of his expenses. He obtained a private loan to pay for remaining costs and worked at a gas station in order to repay the loans.



For two years he maintained the grueling schedule of attending daily college, studying a few hours in the early evening, and then working at the gas station from 10 pm to 6 am, followed by a couple of hours of sleep. At the end of his 2nd year, he was prepared to quit his studies due the strain from financial burdens and his mother's declining health. At an opportune moment, Thamil was introduced to The Shooting Stars Foundation.

After 4 years of hard work, Thamil completed his degree, received multiple job offers and chose to work at Mindtree as a mainframe developer. We are very humbled to be a part of Thamil's success story and honored that we are able to support him in his journey.

## My Favorite SSF Programs

- Peak Performance Workshop – taught me how to communicate effectively, strengthened my confidence, and helped with interview preparation.
- Poetry Competition – gave me a chance to explore my non-academic talents.

## Giving Back

- I am currently helping other scholars with the interview and job application processes.
- After repaying debts, I would like to financially support scholars.

# Spreading Wings



Michael grew up in Nigeria with his parents and three siblings. Education was always very important to Michael and his family; both his parents worked in higher education.

Michael was interested in pursuing a master's degree in energy engineering but did not feel Nigeria offered him what he was looking for. He looked worldwide for relevant programs that included financial aid. He was excited to learn that he had been admitted to the Masters program at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) with financial assistance. The excitement soon turned to apprehension when he learned, after his arrival, that due to a technicality he would not be receiving

aid. With help from family and friends, he was able to piece together funds to cover 1st year expenses. Michael was constantly worried about future fees. The academic department at IIT informed him about SSF and a possible scholarship. He was relieved and delighted to learn that SSF would take care of his remaining tuition costs.

Michael now works at an electricity distribution company in Lagos, Nigeria and hopes to one day found a company that recycles waste into energy. We are proud of Michael and feel blessed that our paths crossed.

## My Favorite SSF Programs

- Peak Performance Workshop – taught me the principles of interpersonal relationships and communication
- Reach For The Stars Artistic Talent Competition– welcome diversion during lockdown; showed me that I could be creative
- Volunteering Opportunities – taught me I could learn new skills quickly



“Spread the word about SSF so that more people can get scholarships.”



## Partnership With SSF

As an SSF scholar Michael graciously volunteered his time with our foundation. He would like to learn more about running nonprofit organizations and would ultimately like to start an SSF chapter in Africa.

## Advice To Fellow SSF Scholars

“SSF is not just an avenue to get money for education. It is a place to build a foundation. Participate in all opportunities: trainings, lectures, programs and volunteering.”

# Community Partnerships



In an effort to increase access to STEM education for students from underrepresented communities in the United States, we expanded our partnerships with community non-profit organizations.

We custom design and develop STEM programs to suit the unique needs of the communities served by these non-profit partners. Web design, business and entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity are samples of custom curriculum we frequently deliver. Together, we work towards empowering youth through education.

## Increasing Access to STEM Education



## Why is our partnership experience unique?

### Exciting Engagement

- Peer-led learning
- Fun and exciting engagement models
- Coaching by professional mentors
- Culturally relevant and inspiring keynote speakers

### Impactful STEM Programs

- Choice of 5+ different camps and program models that we can tailor to any age group and group size

### Priority Access

- Free events to students sponsored by corporate sponsors like IBM, Amgen, Netscout – our partners receive priority access to these free programs



# Partnership Spotlight



## EAH Low Income Housing

This year began a new partnership with EAH Low Income Housing. The mission of EAH Housing is to expand the range of opportunities for low income communities by developing, managing and promoting quality affordable housing and diverse communities. We have hosted two web design camps for EAH – the second of which had a 20+ person waitlist. These camps have reached over 50 students from all over California and Hawaii. At the end of each camp, students showcased their websites to an audience of SSF reps and coaches, EAH reps and coordinators, and their families. We distributed more than \$800 in prizes and rewards for participation and achievement! We have also included EAH students into our corporate sponsored programs like our October Netscout Business and Entrepreneurship Camp. We are grateful to be in partnership with EAH and look forward to continuing to work together to increase access to STEM education for all.



"Shooting Stars personalized approach to STEM programming for our youth is a stepping stone for them to explore careers in technology, and one day become changemakers who influence generations to come."

– Kristin Taylor, Vice President of Resident Services at EAH



"Shooting Stars Foundation does more than teach STEM education to kids. It shows them the tools they need to build a better future. The workshops and instructors help kids find their confidence to dream big and the work ethic to make it happen."

– Jesus Becerra, Resident Services Coordinator at EAH



"I was really happy to see how the EAH students developed throughout the camp and how they used their creativity to add a personal touch to their websites!"

– Vishal, SSF Coach





## IBM Z Datathon – Tech for Good

In support of our mission to expand STEM education for students, especially from underrepresented communities, Shooting Stars partners with like minded corporates.

This year we partnered with IBM to host the SSF IBM Z Datathon, which aided IBM's technology advocacy as well as STEM advocacy goals in the community. We had an overwhelming participation of 1,450 college students around the world, with ~15 IBM employees serving as speakers, mentors and judges. The winning teams, in addition to cash prizes, were awarded a 6-month internship program with IBM to complete their data-science projects.

1450 Participants  
30 Data Science Projects  
15 IBM Volunteers  
6 months of Internship

**Salisu Ali – Bayero University, Nigeria**



I was very impressed by the Shooting Stars organizing team that created a compulsive environment for all to learn about IBM Z Technologies. Tanmay Bakshi did an awesome demo. All in all, it was an amazing experience.



First Prize: Autism Detector



**AUTISM DETECTION  
IN CHILDREN USING  
MACHINE LEARNING**

HELLO\_PETER [ TEAM 23 ]

Second Prize : Fake News Detector



Third Prize : Optimizing Agriculture Production



**Ilakkiya – Vellore Institute of Tech, India**

The IBM mentors were extremely active throughout the datathon and guided the teams profusely. We learned a lot of IBM Z Technology and were able to complete our winning project in 24 hours. We learned how to work as team even though we've never known each other before.



# Grants and Awards



We were awarded the Excellence in Education award from Global Forum for Education and Learning (GFEL). SSF was rated high in Spirit of Innovation and Market Demand. No small feat considering there were 300 entries!



Thanks to Neha Pathak, a SSF Volunteer and a F5 Employee, we received a \$50,000 grant from F5 to host the Tech Immersion Program. This program enabled students from underrepresented communities to attend our STEM programs, free of cost.



We received a \$10,000 grant from VELA in support of our 2022 All Girls Hackathon!



Thanks to Sen, a SSF Volunteer and a Xilinx Employee, we received a \$5,000 grant from Xilinx. Sen was impressed with the entrepreneurship camp his son attended and felt compelled to support SSF.



# Donor Experience



Becoming a donor is as easy as 4Cs. Once you commit to becoming a sponsor, adopt a scholar whose background resonates with you. Connect with your scholar throughout their journey and celebrate their successes with them.

## The 4 C's

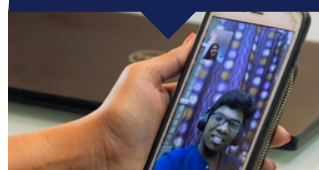
1.  
**COMMIT**



2.  
**CHOOSE**



3.  
**CONNECT**



4.  
**CELEBRATE**



## Journey of Donor Shalini with her Scholar Musfira



At the 2019 Rangeela Fundraiser, Shalini raised her hand to support an SSF scholar. She felt an immediate sense of kinship with Musfira who is from her home state of Bihar, India. Over the next few years they forged a strong connection through video/phone conversations and SSF updates. Shalini feels humbled to have had the opportunity to provide support and advice, develop a mentor-mentee relationship, and celebrate Musfira's accomplishments, the most recent being her placement with Goldman Sachs.



# Donor Spotlight



**Meenu, Sethu and Family**



There is nothing more rewarding than being a part of a deserving scholar's academic journey, see them blossom as a professional, fulfilling their family's dream. 2 of the scholars we support are graduating, already received job placements and other two are on track to excel as well. Grateful to SSF for keeping the process transparent and seamless for donors.



Donor **Meenu Sethu**, a dedicated SSF volunteer, is also a devoted sponsor to 4 scholars. She has encouraged many others to begin their Adopt A Scholar journey.



**Subha Sriram**



I cherish my ongoing association with SSF. The meticulously planned, transparent way they operate all-around and keep expanding on various avenues to support the STEM student education right through into their career pathway is a very committed / sincere effort.



**Subha Sriram**, a regular judge and speaker for our STEM education events is also a proud donor. She has also made introductions between SSF and many companies for internships and placements for our scholars. This year, she has sponsored one class of Hello English and MILT self-confidence training for ~ 70 scholars.



**Neil Pinto**



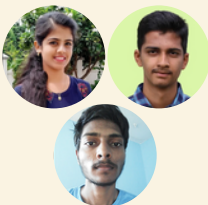
I want to thank Shooting Stars Foundation for setting up regular update calls with the scholars. These calls allow me to stay in touch with the student and engage with their journey. I would highly recommend this to other potential sponsors



**Neil Pinto** is a sponsor to Vaishnavi, a 3rd year engineering student in Pune.



**Jagan, Raj, Lavanya and Family**



We're proud to be a part of the Shooting Stars family where we know our contributions make a direct impact on others!

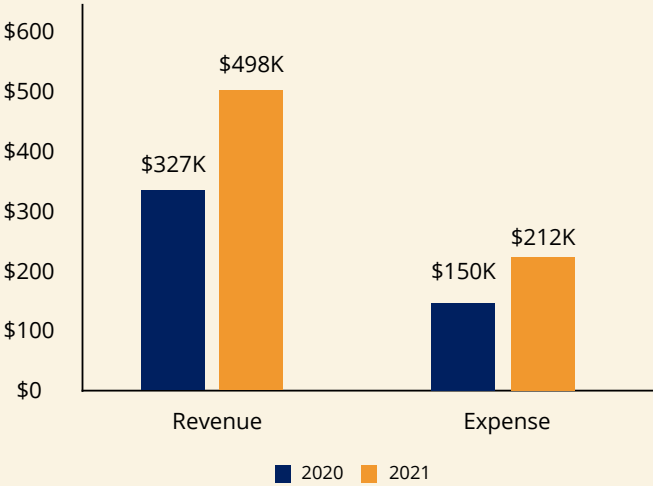


The **Borra family** proudly sponsors 3 students and serve as volunteers for SSF as well. Jagan has been our valued treasurer for the past two years.

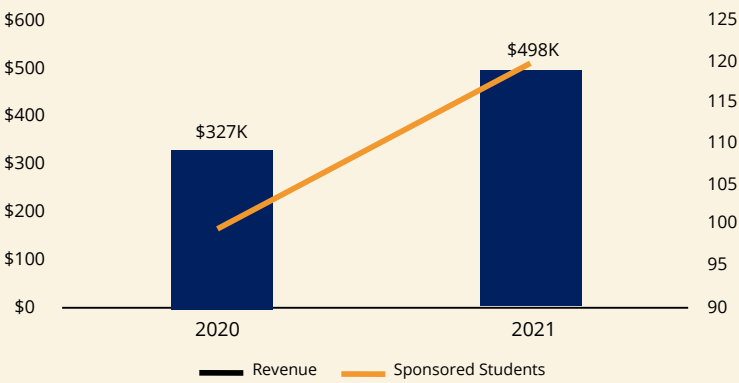
# Financials



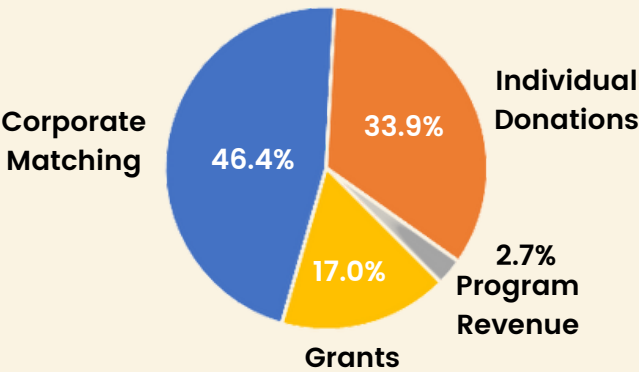
Financials



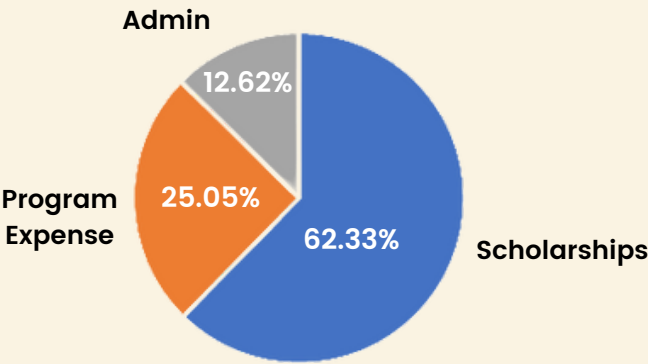
Students/Revenue Growth



Income Sources



2021 Expenses





# Our Team



## Board of Directors



LATHA  
NARAYANNAN



KEVIN  
LEE



UMA  
MEYYAPPAN



DAWNA  
TAYLOR

## Board Advisors



BRIAN  
MCCANN



VENKATANATHAN  
RAGHAVACHARI



VASUGI  
SINGARAM



RAMNATH  
S MANI

USA

India

## Employees



MARIEL  
GERON

Sr Program Manager



PATTY  
BARRIOS

Web Design Master



GEETHANJALI

Sr Operations Manager



YAMINI  
VIJAYARAJ

Placement Lead



SUZELLE  
ZAMOR

Program Manager



MELISSA

Program Manager



MANJULA

Associate Director - Operations



SSF's founder and mission are rooted in empowering others to take control to improve their future. STEM education is a proven and scalable path to break generational poverty.

- Brian McCann,  
Advisory Board Member



I once dreamed of being in the position I am now: helping others excel! I am honored to be able to add value to such a wonderful organization!

- Patty Barrios,  
Web Design Master



It gives me immense pleasure to walk with the scholars for 4 years and finally see them reach their destination with flying colors. I thank SSF for letting me a part of these beautiful journeys.

-Yamini,  
Placement Lead



# Looking Ahead



## Tech Immersion Programs

Summer 2022



## Corporate College Hackathons



## Sponsor 800 Scholars

2025 by 2025



## 90% Placements



As we move out of the uncharted waters of the past two years, we step into 2022 with much hope and positivity. We are seeing the fruits of our labor from the past few years: increased job placement for our scholars, more STEM partnerships with organizations working with underserved students, and donors and sponsors placing more trust in our transparent and grassroots activities.

We will continue this momentum into 2022 with every confidence that we will achieve our goal of supporting 2025 college scholars in India and Africa and 2025 STEM scholars in the United States.

Join us in our journey. Volunteer time to vet scholar applications, approve scholars, help with donor scholar connect calls, mentor scholars, take the STEM exposure programs to your corporates and coach various STEM programs.

With gratitude to all our donors, mentors, volunteers, team members, board members, corporate partners, and well wishing supporters, we look forward to a great year and future for Shooting Stars Foundation and our scholars!

# Honor Roll



## Thank You 2021 Donors!

Aarti Patil	Harjinder Singh	Pallavi Tallam	Srinivasarao Thumala
Abiramasundari Manikandan	Harsha Silina	Pavai Olagappan	Subbu Subramanian
AJS Kavitha	Harsha Rodage	Poorani Jeyasekar	Subha Singaram
Akila Nanda	Hema Shankar	Prabhu	Subhashini Sivakumar
Amit Kashvi Jain	Hema Sundaram	Prameya Kirtikar	Suhashini Sriram
Anand Sampathkumaran	Indira Polavarapu	Pranay Singh	Subramanian Sennimalai
Anand Muralidharan	Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan	Prasad Modali	Sudeer Majeed
Ananda Vardhana	Jayanthi Alphones	Prasanna Navin	Sudha Vajjhala
Anandhi Sarathy	Joanna Biernacka	Premkumar Chindepalli	Sudhakar Gopalakrishnan
Anandhi Iyer	Jothi Arul Prakash	Priya Balaji	Sudhakar Pitchumani
Andy Yuan	Jyothi Kapuluru	Priya Srikanth	Sudhakara Reddy
Anil Balwanti	Kaliappan Pitchaiah	Priya Ajgaonkar	Sudhindra Chillarige
Anita Lovkesh	Kalyani Golla	Venkatanathan R	Suganya Balasubramanian
Anju Kataruka	Kamal Mohideen	Radhika Appachar	Suman Sathyanarayan
Ankur Garg	Kannan Ramanathan	Rajesh Jayakumar	Sunita Jogi
Ansh Gupta	Karthik Chandramouli	Raji Srinivasan	Sunitha Thakkur
Anshul Patil	Karthik Karpagam	Raji Avinash	Sunny Kanna
Anu Krishnan	Kavitha Somasundaram	Rakesh Kesavan	Suresh Prabhu
Anusha Valliappan	Kavitha Subramanian	Ram Anantharam	Sweta Ravisankar
Apsara Bhattarai	Ken Boyd	Ramadevi Ramasubban	Swetha Meka
Archana Ranjith	Kirana Shantha	Ramakrishna Peesapati	Thanga Rekha
Arun Lakshmanan	Kishore Gaddam	Ramanathan Chinnayegappan	Thara Leela
Arvind Thakkalapalli	Kishore Chitrapu	Ramesh Padmanabhan	Thor Wallace
Ashlesh Sharma	Kokila Vidyarthi	Ramkumar Mohanachandran	Thushara B
Ashwini Kamat	Koushik Rajaram	Ramya Vaikkam	Tina Manickkam
Asita Sricharan	Krishna Reghupathy	Ravi Damaluri	Uma Kannan
Atirek Sharma	Kutumba Rao	Regina Ananthan	Umarani Tanigaiarasu
Atish Shah	Lakshman Rao	Riyas Noushad	Umasree Sathyasekaran
Avanthi Kantheti	Lakshmanan Valliappan	Rizwan Nawab	Usha Mohan
Badri Malynur	Lalitha Radhakrishnan	Roopa Ramraj	Usha Vijayakumar
Balaji Ramaswamy	Lavanya Borra	Sabreena Rajan	Usha Maddala
Balaji Avvaru	Mahima Natarajan	Sachendra Shetty	Usha Prasad
Balaji Sumithra	Mani Sundaram	Saigeetha Govi	Usha Sarathi
Balamurugan Guruswamy	Manickam Annamalai	Saiprabha Sundaram	Vadivuu Nathan
Bhanu Ganesh	Manish Harsh	Sakthivel Chinnasamy	Vaiju Dinesh
Bharathi Krishnamurthy	Mariel Geron	Sangeetha Mani	Vanithambikai Muthusamy
Bhaskar Uthanumalliah	Mary Roussos	Sanjukta Sanjukta	Vasanth Ganesan
Bobby Balachandran	Medha Pendurthy	Saravanakumar Nagarajan	Vasanthi Vasudevan
Brian McCann	Meena Ramanathan	Saravanan Balaraj	Vasugi Singaram
Chaitra Hirematt	Meena Somasundaram	Sasi Madhira	Vellachi Nachiappan
Chandra Ranganathan	Meena Munshi	Savita Chandan	Venkat Ganapathy
Chandramouli Kashyap	Meena Vellayppan	Selvakumaran Radhakrishnan	Venkat San
Chithra Mohanasundaram	Meenu Sethu	Sembu Kanthilal	Venkata Vuyyuru
Dasarathi Sampath	Michael Segal	Shailesh Kumar	Venkataraman Prasanna
Deepa Barve	Milind Nadkarni	Shaji Parayil	Venkataraman P
Pavounambigai Kanagavally	Mohamed Yoosuf	Shalini Prabha	Venky Ramakrishnan
Deviusa Krishnamoorthy	Mona Sehgal	Shanthi Ganesh	Venu Parachuri
Dhanda Dharumalingam	Murali Veeramoney	Shanthi Krishnan	Vidhyasankari Padmanabhan
Dharani Ravichandran	Muthu Chockalingam	Shooting Stars Foundation	Viji Sujatha Rajarajan
Dhaval Shah	Nachu Mani	Sireesha Chakka	Vijay Chirumamilla
Dheepa Nanduri	Nagaraju Yekkala	Sitalaxmi Vishwanathan	Vijay Ilavarasan
Divya Prabakar	Nalini Chowala	Sithambaram Nachiappan	Viji Shankar
Dolly Bhaskara	Nalini Krishnan	Sivagami Sundaram	Vinod K. Murugesan
Ezhil Sairam	Nandakumar Rangaswamy	Sivagami Vanka	Vinod Chathoth
Fathima Sajid	Naresh Rajaram	Sivkumar Srinivasan	Vippul Pandit
Gayathri Nagabhushan	Neela Ramanathan	Sowmya Parthasarathy	Vishnu Palaniswamy
Gheorghe Muresan	Nehal Dave	Sowmya Natarajan	Vlad Cojanu
Gidu Sriram	Neil Pinto	Sreeram Bhaskara	Yugandhar Chindapalle
Girija Mulukutla	Nidhi Tuli	Sridhar TPT	***Anonymous Donors - 7
Gokul Gopalasamy	Nirat Shah	Srikanth Hanumanula	
Harini Sukumaran	Nirmal Sigamani	Srinivas Naidu	





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FOUNDATION**



**EDUCATE  
EMPOWER  
ENABLE**

**Shooting Stars Foundation**

[www.shooting-stars-foundation.org](http://www.shooting-stars-foundation.org)

[support@sstarsfoundation.org](mailto:support@sstarsfoundation.org)