



April – June 2022

NEWSLETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable

Mission and Vision

“At Shooting Stars Foundation, we envision a future where all young people have equal access to the STEM knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic success, career success, upward mobility, and a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency for themselves, their families, and their communities.”



Key highlights

Read here to learn more about our inaugural board of directors. Our board was formed in 2021, but was officially announced this year in April.

Governing Board Press Release



Marching towards Our Vision

679

STEM scholars funded

1175

underrepresented students served since BOY 2021



STEM Programs

EAH Game Design Camp (April 11th - 15th)

We are happy to report that SSF completed the first ever Game Design Camp this April. This camp was put together through our partnership with EAH Low Income Housing, containing 14 students between 2nd and 6th grade from 5 different EAH Locations in California. At SSF, we are dedicated to increasing access to STEM education for all, with the goal of our Game Design Camp to introduce students to game design and programming basics in a fun and hands-on way. Students worked with their mentors to create a video game from start to finish. Students showcased their video games to SSF and EAH reps, played each others video games, and competed for first place. With this great turnout, we are excited at the opportunity to continue hosting Game Design Camps with different groups of students!



14 students
2nd to 6th Grade



5 EAH Housing Locations in
5 cities across California



"I found the camp very fun. I was so happy I was able to create a video game!"

- Abraham, Participant

"I learned how to code and really get out of my comfort zone."

- Muhammad, Participant



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STEM Programs

Netscout Cyberathon

On May 21-22, SSF hosted the Cyber Security Hackathon Sponsored by NETSCOUT, a provider of application and network performance management products. A Cyber Security Hackathon or "Cyberathon" is a 24 hour event where participants use data science resources to create solutions to different problems in an intensive, collaborative environment. Participants were challenged to complete projects based on their experience level. The Beginner Level Challenge included a set of Cyber War Games that needed to be solved as a team. The Intermediate / Advanced team were challenged to build a bulletproof User Authentication system with innovative features. Teams were judged on the following categories: Ideation, Innovation, Technical Functionality and Design, and the "WOW" Factor of the approach. In preparation for the event, SSF hosted a series of events including a Cyber Security Concepts Webinar where participants discussed how Cybersecurity will play a key role in our future towards the right to privacy, a cybersecurity panel where participants had the opportunity to hear first hand experiences from industry leaders, and Cybersecurity expert keynote speakers that provided provided insight on Cybersecurity and their experience in the field.



We are happy to report that the event was a great success!

Eligible team winners won cash prizes and will have the opportunity to interview for internships or placements at **NETSCOUT.**

75 participants
18 teams
9 countries
13 US states



My favorite part was being able to interact with career and academic professionals, while presenting the work we'd accomplished as a team, was especially valuable. I appreciated being able to hear their thoughts on our work, as well as the questions they posed; at times, they were quite thought-provoking.

- Stamesha, Cyberathon Participant



SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

Scholar Programs

Shooting Stars Family Meet - June 5th, Bangalore

On June 5th The Shooting Stars Foundation hosted its first ever Family Meet in Bangalore, India, discussing the aims and achievements of its scholars. More than 50 scholars attended, supported by more than 20 speakers and supporters. The daylong event enabled, empowered, and educated the scholars with motivational speeches, workshops, games, and team building activities. The Family Meet showcased strong bonding among the scholars and their commitment to and respect for Shooting Stars Foundation.

We would like to highlight and thank the following speakers:

- Mr. Graha Durai, a professional motivator with more than 30 years of work experience who gave a wonderfully coordinated talk on the 6 main values of maximizing life and success.
- Mrs. Radhika Parameswaran, the Chief Learning Officer of a multinational company with over 25 years of experience in the corporate world, spoke about employability skills and gave important interview suggestions and advice for successful job placements.
- Mr. Kaiser Masood, MD of Lifeworks Group of Companies who conducted a wonderful workshop - "Being Unstoppable." He addressed the notions of having your own purpose and making a set plan towards achieving that goal.
- Mr. Gopakumar, Additional Commissioner for Customs and Indirect Taxes who gave a session on how to prepare for Indian Administrative Services Exams and even offered to help students who were interested!



Detailed Review Of The Event



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Scholar Programs

Shooting Stars Family Meet - June 12th, Chennai

On June 12th 115 SSF scholars from all over Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad and Tirupati assembled at the Golden Sringer

Farm House to celebrate being a part of the Shooting Stars Foundation. The CEO of Shooting Stars Foundation Mrs Latha Narayanan addressed the gathering and welcomed the scholars. She spoke about the importance of giving back to the society and how much happiness and satisfaction it gives her and her family to see the scholars grow into responsible and achieving adults. Students enjoyed speakers (listed below), a career panel and even witnessed scholar Ishrath engage in a mock interview, emphasizing the importance of preparation and critical thinking in interviewing.



We would like to highlight and thank the following speakers:

- Mr Ravichandran, Former Executive Director of Lucas TVS, spoke about the holistic development of the scholars. He encouraged scholars to embody the spirit of cooperation, collaboration and communication in order to move ahead.
- Mr Venkatesh, an IT professional working for Athena Health Solutions as an architect. He focused on attitude, aptitude and skills as the 3 most important things to be developed before attending an interview.
- Mr Senthilnathan who has two decades of experience building technology solutions for investment banks across the world not only fielded questions from the students with respect to the current scenario of hiring in the IT industry but also how to develop creativity and passion for work.
- Major Jyothsna Venkatesh spoke about her journey from an MBBS student to a clinical microbiologist in the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. She gave the students pointers on how to join the Short Service Commission. She spoke about NEET PG and where it is important to be clear which gets preference the subject or college.
- Mr Daniel Jacob who is a visiting faculty member of Indian School of Business and Madras Management Association gave the gathering an overview of what kind of words can be used to change our thoughts and therefore change our perspective of life.
- Scholars Aishwarya, Pradeep, and Arvind shared their life circumstances and their experiences. They spoke about how they overcame challenges with a positive mind set and how thankful they are to SSF.
- Student panelists Govindaraman, Vedhamathura, and Venkatakrishnan who shared their "secrets to successfully getting placed".



FAMILY MEET 2022 *games fun food*

- Exciting Meetup of ALL Scholars
- Fun Games and Delicious Meals
- Self-Confidence Workshop



- Why should I attend?
- Life-long Professional Connections
- Refresh, Relearn and Rejuvenate
- Future Training and Career Opportunities
- Continued and New Scholarships



Key Note Speakers
IAS Officer, Surprise
Celebrity, Career Panel with
MNCs and Alumni
Also meet several Corporate
and Trained Professionals
and gain great Medical
Opportunities.

Date - June 5th, 2022
Time - 11pm to 4pm
Venue - <not final yet>
Confirmation Link -
<google form link>

The event concluded with the scholars letting loose to some peppy numbers and rhythmic beats! It was an amazing event for scholars to network with their peers, guests and corporate professionals.



**SHOOTING STARS
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Scholar Programs

Placement news



MANGASHWARI

Proxima Corporate Services
PVT LTD, Chennai

Placed as an Agricultural
and Irrigation Engineer

"SSF and my donor Raji Ma'am gave me a lot of support and a strong confidence that I am not alone...Through this journey I have found my goal."



ISHWARYA

ITC Infotech,
Chennai

Placed as a
Software Developer

"Without SSF and my donor, I would not have achieved this stage. Heartfelt gratitude to SSF."



NIKHIL

Samsung,
Gurugram

Placed as an
Intern

"SSF and my donor has helped me financially and especially those aptitude and English training sessions were so useful which helped me to get this opportunity."



PAVITHRAN

Onebill
Software

Placed as a
Software Engineer Trainee

"SSF has helped me a lot by providing sponsorship, it helped my studies and my family."



KAVIYA

ITC Healthcare Technology Innovation
Centre, IITM Research Park

Placed as a
Project Engineer

"Because of SSF I am successfully completing my degree without break. And SSF also supported me for developing my professional skills through the MILT training program for my career growth."



NIVETHA

Robert
Bosch

Placed as an
Electrical and Electronics Engineer

"The main reason for my placement is SSF from which I gained lots of knowledge by attending placement classes conducted by SSF...Thank you SSF team."

Congratulations!



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Spotlights

Volunteer/ambassador spotlights

A big shout out of appreciation to Brett Renaud and Anaya Jain who led our first ever game design class for our partner, EAH Low Income Housing! The goal of our Game Design Camp is to introduce students to game design and programming basics in a fun and hands on way.



"When I was asked to mentor for this camp, I had no idea it would be this influential. I was able to teach participants coding basics and help them create games similar to one they play every day! Helping future game designers or just youth who want to learn new skills has been the best experience. I'm excited for the opportunity to do it again!"

- Brett, Peer Mentor

We would also like to recognize Michael Segal, AVP - Strategic Alliances, Netscout, a dedicated volunteer who has served as a professional mentor in many of our past camps.



"I loved assisting with this camp! Seeing the accomplishment in their faces really made me happy to bring that kind of emotion to students. I believe this camp was great because students were able to learn about coding in a fun way and feel excited about doing it!"

- Anaya, Assistant Peer Mentor



"The experience of coaching young adults who are committed to learning new skills and passionate about entrepreneurship is very gratifying. It warms my heart to watch these young people learn new ideation, business, marketing, presentation, and other skills and then put them to good use, in a short period of time, by developing and presenting their business ideas."

- Michael Segal, AVP - Strategic Alliances



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MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT SSF



@shootingstarsorg



@academicbootcamps



@ShootingStarOrg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc

- Like FB Page and Instagram / Follow Linked In
- Volunteer
- Adopt a Scholar
- Execute a program etc



**SHOOTING STARS
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**Educate
Empower
Enable**

ADOPT A SCHOLAR You Can Make A Difference

- ✓ Motivated Medical/Engineering /Nursing Scholars
- ✓ Deserving Low Income Families
- ✓ First Time Graduates
- ✓ Top Performers
- ✓ Mentor & Connect Periodically
- ✓ Celebrate upliftment with graduation

400 scholars
worldwide



15 states
in India



COMMIT

CHOOSE

CONNECT

CELEBRATE



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

shooting-stars-foundation.org

Avail corporate donation matches, volunteer grants & tax deductions

60 Scholars Need your Support

We are looking for generous Donors to adopt our new batch of scholars! Despite all the challenges, the year 2020 was very impactful with 180 wonderful donors adopting 200 students. This year 2021, we have many new verified and approved students who need our help and support to pursue college education and uplift their families from poverty.

\$ **999** yr
per student
\$ **499**
with corporate match

Language	Degree	#Available
Bengali	Medical	1
Hindi	Engineering	8
Hindi	Medical	2
Marathi	Engineering	3
Marathi	Medical	4
Kannada	Engineering	12
Kannada	Medical	4
Telugu	Engineering	10
Telugu	Medical	5
Tamil	Engineering	8
Tamil	Medical	5

Please consider adopting one of them - through donations or donation matching at employer or volunteer hour grants. It is \$999 per scholar which is \$499 with match. Your donations are tax deductible which makes it only about \$400 per student.

For \$400 you can change the life of one scholar and their family!

6% goes towards Operational expenses for background check / home visit approval process, training co-ordination and placement assistance

Email : support@sstarsfoundation.org Text : 510-410-2887



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**Sponsor a Student
Change a generation**

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