



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# NEWS LETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable



October – December 2022

## 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.



## Quarter highlights

The board of directors welcomed another new member this quarter. Jayashree Sundaresan is a Senior Technology leader with 24+ years of experience. A servant leader at heart, she strongly believes in creating positive impact to transform people beyond who they think they are and what they think they can achieve. Jayashree is very passionate about empowering women, guiding children, giving back to society and focusing on wellness as a priority. Jayashree holds a Bachelors degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering and an MBA from Santa Clara University, USA. We are overjoyed to welcome Jayashree to the Shooting Stars Family.



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**"Shooting Stars mission resonates with my values and beliefs to lead change in communities through educating youth and helping them gain confidence, perspective and a lifelong desire to be a force of positive impact".**

**JAYASHREE SUNDARESAN  
BOARD MEMBER**

## Marching towards Our Vision

**701**

STEM scholars funded

**2,585**

underrepresented students served since BOY 2021

**Join our Movement  
STEM FOR ALL**

# US STEM Programs

## Congressional App Challenge Training Camp

Shooting Stars coaches taught more than 50 students across the country app design, preparing them to submit their apps to the Congressional App Challenge. As a result, many students who participated won their district!

*"The CAC Training Camp was very educational - I learned a lot about programming languages, such as python and HTML. I had a lot of fun creating this app, and it was definitely worth the while. The camp helped me get a better idea of how app-development works." - Anusha, Participant*



## Whitewater Middle School In Class Game Design Camp

Coach Elias Diez took over Whitewater Middle School's game design curriculum for eighth grade students. Students enjoyed learning how to make their very own video games from start to finish.

*"I learned that depending on where you put each code it may do something different and I also learned that different codes do different things, none are the same!" - Andrea, Participant.*

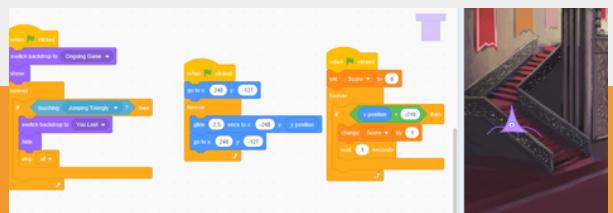


Whitewater Middle School In Class Game Design Camp

## CIS Game Design Camp

Students from Charlotte, North Carolina Community In Schools participated in a 3 week long game design camp which culminated in a showcase day for CIS reps, families and friends, and SSF staff!

*"Showcase day was a wonderful event, 11 Final participants displayed their games, talked through the thought process while creating, and really let their creativity shine! Additionally, students had the opportunity to play each other's games and compare different game motions, themes, and objectives. SSF is extremely proud of each student for trying something new and making it their own!" - Melissa, SSF Program Manager"*



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# US STEM Programs

## FLEX webinar

On November 12th, Shooting Stars partnered with FLEX College Prep to bring an hour long webinar to prospective college students across the country. Shooting Stars officers Ansh and Prisha and FLEX College Prep pros presented "Changes and Trends: Class of 2022 College Admission Results." Participants learned how the Class of 2022 performed compared to prior years' classes, and gained valuable takeaways.

"The college event was very informative. I loved how we didn't only learn about this years admissions rates and tactics, but also pre-COVID's admissions rates and tactics. I also liked how we got our own questions answered at the end. It was nice to learn about what colleges look for specifically and how much academic vs non-academic items they look for." - Sanjana, participant



## AMD Hackathon

On December 10th, Shooting Stars hosted the AMD All Girls Hackathon - A ONE Day Hacking event to inspire young girls to take an interest in STEM and encourage their curiosity to grow deeper!

In preparation for the event, tech industry professionals, tech mentors, and former hackathon winners hosted workshops on how to hack, web-design, and professional Q&A panel discussion.

## Hackathon Impact

- 330 participants from across 20 countries joined the hackathon
- 75% participants report increased expertise in programming
- 93% of participants would attend another SSF Hackathon
- 94% of participants would recommend this Hackathon to a friend
- 99% of participants will go on to pursue higher level education in STEM.

We are happy to report that 60 teams successfully built and presented their projects to a panel of judges. With the guidance of 30 tech mentors who were available throughout the 24 hour period, the girls were able to progress tremendously with their projects. During the Hackathon, participants were tasked with building their own website using these tools to address women empowerment around the globe. A highlight from one of the winning projects:

Nari Suraksha - Protection of women - The aim of this project is to empower female scholars by giving them the resources necessary to further protect them. The platform includes self-paced lessons and accessible content in audio and video format, making it easier for those with lower literacy rates to participate. (A first place winner)

"One thing I learned from this hackathon was how to focus and work well under a time limit. 1) I will start focusing more on my goals 2) I will practice coding more often!" - Anusha Jain, 2022 AMD All Girls Hackathon Participant.

Through such programs, we move forward toward the goal of making STEM education more accessible around the globe!



The image shows a collage of promotional posters for various events. The top row features two posters: 'SSF AND AMD PRESENT WOMEN IN TECH PANEL' with speakers like Prithviya Lakshmi and Jenny Radewagen, and 'YOU CAN HACK TOO! A DISCUSSION WITH PREVIOUS HACKATHON LEADERS & WINNERS' with speakers like Anusha Jain and Gargi Lakshmi. The bottom row features three posters for the 'AMD ALL GIRLS HACKATHON', each with a different keynote speaker: Padmini Gopalakrishnan, Divya Sharmar, and Ansh Manda.



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# INDIA Scholar Programs

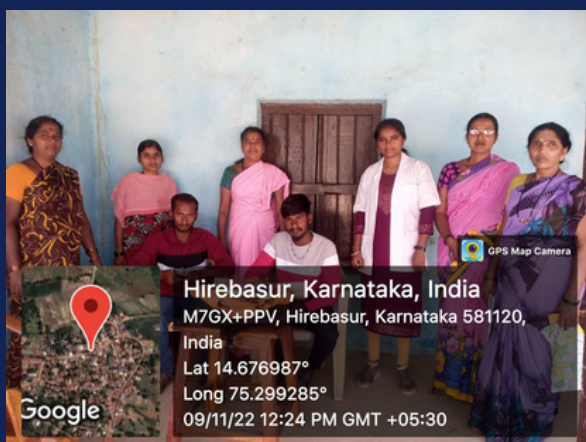
## Alumini students Success Stories

### Renuka Patil

An aspiring health officer from Haveri, Ms, Renuka Patil, a scholar of Shooting Stars foundation is a shining example of how our trainings can revolutionize lives and have made a huge impact.

Renuka is a nursing student who graduated from KIMS Hubli in 2022. Currently she is working as an community health officer in Haveri, Karnataka. Last year, when we spoke with her, confidence level was low and she was not able to communicate clearly . That's when Shooting Stars Foundation introduced her to MILT. She attended the Motivational Inspirational Leadership Training (MILT) training program and she has benefitted immensely through this program. This Program was conducted by Mr. Daniel who has 20+ years of experience with proven training methods. More than 200+ students of SSF took this session and many students have got placed in big MNC companies.

Talking with her again after MILT training, her level of confidence boosted, her energy level was very high and her communication was clear. Now she has blossomed as a community officer, she is currently helping forest officials, school children, and women. She is even teaching yoga to rural people of the primary health care centre. Her service to the villagers during COVID-19 won the hearts of people and she was the recipient of a COVID warrior award. She says that " SSF funding her studies was very useful. Especially all skill trainings which were very helpful for her to lead the career successfully. " She feels proud to be a SSF scholar and her parents too are superproud of her. Through her service she is helping the community! SSF and her donor are proud of her achievements and wish her the best in her future endeavors



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# INDIA Scholar Programs

## Alumini students Success Stories

### Shaik Jilani

An active leader from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Shaik Jilani is a great inspiration for many. Shaik Jilani has grown up to be a great personality. He has always been a very active learner. His scores in Class 10 & Class 12 are a testimony of it!

Currently, he works at Vertusa as a SQL developer earning more than what he aimed for. He has been a friendly and enthusiastic person who always loves to help people.

He is a peer mentor at SSF where he mentors junior scholars and at his office where he mentors freshers. He says that "I am always thankful to my donor Kamal sir who motivated me to achieve my goal".

Shaik Jilani joined Vertusa as an intern and then based on his splendid performance he was placed at Vertusa. He was formerly a student at Mahindra Engineering College, Salem and a scholar at SSF,



He has been given many trainings which includes "Hello English!" Training from SSF and another training for SQL perspective from Qspiders, Basavangudi.

He feels that the English training from SSF has been a great support for him to sharpen his English Skills. He feels proud and honored to be a part of the SSF family.

## Medical Session

This quarter, a medical session by Dr. Ruchi Vaidya on lifestyle management was conducted. More than 100 of SSF scholars took part in the session. Dr. Ruchi talked in detail about nutrition and the risk factors of COVID-19 and how to reduce the common factors. She also went in detail with obesity and obesity related issues! We are grateful to Dr. Ruchi for taking the time to work with and inspire our Shooting Stars Scholars!



**DR. RUCHI VAIDYA**

PhD in Nutrition  
(M.S University of Vadodara, India)

Scientific Officer  
EcDEESHA, Anand, Gujarat.

Consultant Nutritionist  
Young and Living, Lifestyle clinic  
Vadodara, India.

Assistant Professor  
Ramaiah International Centre for Public  
Health Innovations, Bangalore, India.



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# INDIA Scholar Programs

## Our Active Students: Achievements in college

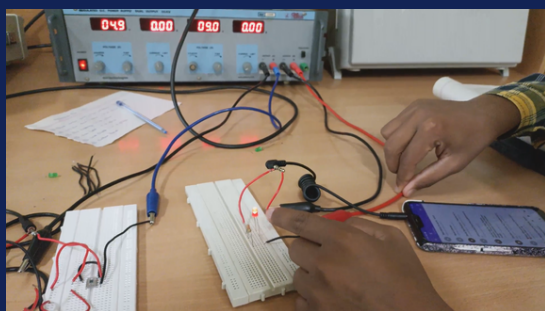
### Aman Kumar Yadhav

Our SSF Scholar, Mr. Aman Kumar Yadhav is a great sports coach now. Starting his journey bit by bit, today he is a successful athlete who has also been acknowledged by the state chief-minister. He has performed well in academics and in sports!



### Rahul Prajapati

Our SSF Scholar, Mr. Rahul Prajapati, is an enthusiastic inventor now. Recently, Rahul along with his professor and team mates, has invented a project on light fidelity called LIFI. This project helps in the transmission of data or sound through light.



## HR Session by Radhika

To boost the confidence of our graduating students during campus placements we have implemented this Program, L&D Championing workplace transformation with Expert Speaker, Radhika Parameswaran. The Lead- Learning and Development training was such a wonderful session for the students as they learnt a lot about how to rock their placement interviews. In the Q/A session, the expert clarified a lot of doubts based on her experience and expertise.

We asked our students about their takeaways of the program and here's the testimonial:

*"There are two major takeaways from the program, one is the STAR Methodology and the other is to know well about the company". - Dharmendra Singh, SSF Scholar"*

## Employee Spotlight



ELIAS DIEZ

Elias joined our staff this September and has been an invaluable asset to our Shooting Stars family. As our lead game design coach, Elias has already taught dozens of our SSF participants how to code while making it fun and engaging. Elias is smart, strategic, and very reliable. We are grateful to have Elias on our team!



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# Placement Highlights



**MARKET ANALYST,  
FUTURE FIRST, JAIPUR**

"SSF is not just an organisation, But a family for me, SSF helped me to improve my skills through various Trainings. I'd like thank to my donor for the support as It would've been really difficult without her help. Thank you very much."



**Lakshmanan,  
Chemical Engineering Student from IIT  
TIRUPATI, Andhra Pradesh.  
Batch - 2023**



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**SOFTWARE ENGINEER,  
SAMSUNG, BANGALORE.**

"I am very thankful to SSF family because they provide scholarship along with they helped me to groom myself as a professional by giving training on a regular basis".



**Aruna,  
ECE Student from Lucknow.  
Batch - 2023**



**MERCEDES BENZ,  
BANGALORE.**

"Basically I am from middle class family, where we weren't financially well. SSF gave me scholarships every year to continue my study alongside SSF conducted gave many trainings that helped me a lot. Thank you SSF".



**Sanjeela,  
ECE Student of KLS Gogte  
Institute of technology, Belgaum.  
Batch - 2023**



**SOFTWARE ENGINEER,  
ASTRAZENECA, CHENNAI.**

"Now I am going to complete my education without worrying about my financial problem, that's only because of the SSF and my donor. Placement training at SSF Played a very important role in clearing my first round. I assure to work harder to make SSF proud".



**Mahalaxmi S,  
CSE From Government College  
Of Technology, Coimbatore.  
Batch - 2023**



## STEM College Scholarship

We create a path for highly competent global scholars through college sponsorships, resources, training and mentorship to help them successfully graduate from top medical and engineering schools with a STEM degree.

[Learn more →](#)



# Upcoming Events and Programs

Program	Participants	Location	Dates
Game Design Camp	25+ middle and high school students from EAH Low Income Housing	Online	Jan 2- Jan 6, 2023
Monthly Ed Session: CS/Engineering-Winning Strategies For Getting In with FLEX College Prep	Middle and high school students	Online	January 12
Netscout Pune Hackathon	College students in Pune, India	Pune	January 21







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# WANT TO BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER?



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@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@sstarsfoundation.org

## PARTNER WITH SSF



### STEM CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES WITH STEM

#### SSF Mission

Empower Individuals & Communities  
to Break the Cycle of Generational  
Poverty through STEM Education

#### SSF Impact

1500

Underserved  
students reached

100

STEM programs  
hosted

90%

Indicated dramatic  
increase in tech skills



@shootingstars



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@shootingstars.org

### Why should you partner with SSF ?

- Increase STEM Participation in Underserved Youth
- Employee Skill Based Volunteering
- Employee Engagement and Team Building
- Build DE&I Hiring Pipeline

“ Over the last four years we've sponsored seven hackathons – both in-person and virtual with Shooting Stars. The most recent virtual hackathon attracted 47 employee volunteers across the company. In addition to the satisfaction of working with students, a hackathon is an intense team-building opportunity for employees. ”

-Karen McCloskey, Corporate Sponsorship, NetScout



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### 2022 Sample STEM Programs

#### F5 Young Women Tech Immersion



- 30 high school girls
- 5 week, 60 hour immersion camp
- Students learned about tech business and entrepreneurship and completed courses in web and app design to bring their tech business to life!

#### After Camp Survey

- 95% will pursue a STEM Major
- 97% will attend another SSF Camp

#### Amgen Tech Business Camp

- 30+ middle and high school students at Amgen headquarters in Tampa Bay
- 5 team businesses, website and apps were created
- 20+ Amgen employees engaged
- Showcase day included Amgen executive leadership, participant parents, offices of the Tampa Bay Governor and Congresswoman



#### IBM zDatathon



- >600 participants online and in-person
- 55+ team Tech for Good data science projects completed on IBM zPlatform
- 40+ IBM employees engaged
- 30+ internship opportunities provided by IBM

#### Netscout Cybersecurity Program



- 30+ high school students from Charlotte, NC
- 8+ cybersecurity projects and research papers created
- 10+ Netscout employees engaged

#### After Camp Survey

- 100% of participants reported their understanding of cybersecurity and security breaches increased drastically
- 100% of students reported that they enjoyed this camp and would recommend it to their friends

<https://shooting-stars-foundation.org/corporates>