



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# NEWS LETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable

January – March 2023

## 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

This quarter, join us in welcoming Vaibhav to Shooting Stars Foundation! In a world where everyone wants to be heard, Vaibhav stands out as an avid listener. He brings his passion for making a positive impact to the Shooting Stars Foundation, where he aims to create meaningful change in the lives of students. We're thrilled to have him on board as Director - Strategy and Operations and can't wait to see the impact he'll make.



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**



**WELCOME VAIBHAV CHOUHAN !!**

## Marching towards Our Vision

**706**

STEM scholars funded

**3040**

underrepresented students  
served since BOY 2021

**Join our Movement  
STEM FOR ALL**

# US STEM Programs

## EAH JANUARY CAMP



During the first week of January SSF hosted 17 students between 6th and 12th grade from EAH Low Income Housing Communities across California in a game design and development camp. Instructor Elias Diez led students through the process of creating their very own video game from start to finish.

*"I enjoyed using a game creation tool that i had never used before. I was happy that it was an online course so I didn't have to worry about not having access to transportation."*

*-William, Participant*

### Feedback

"Elias' ability to multitask and help everyone at once while moving at a quick pace and finish the course in under 10 hours total is incredible."  
-Karl, Participant

"I really think he was a really good instructor for this camp because he was really patient and took specific questions for our projects."  
-Mariam, Participant

"I was happy that it was an online course so I didn't have to worry about not having access to transportation."  
-William, Participant

"It was awesome to see the students create their own game from a blank canvas in just a few short class sessions! Students were able to learn about coding in a fun way and feel excited about doing it!"  
-Elias, Coach

"Showcase day was a wonderful event, 17 final participants displayed their games, talked through the thought process while creating, and really let their creativity shine!" - Melissa, Program Manager

## STEM WEBINAR SERIES

In January Shooting Stars partnered with FLEX College Prep to bring middle and high school students across the US an insight into the process and challenges of getting into a computer science or engineering major in college. More than 50 students attended. We are grateful to FLEX for their partnership and for the ability to provide this camp free of charge to all participants - many from underserved communities.



## CAREER HUB FEBRUARY CAMP - EXPLORING THE METAVERSE AS A CAREER

Marc Marion provided an engaging metaverse presentation with audio and 3D visuals. His presentation ranged from local high-tech industries and how they trained soldiers and medical professionals, as well as creating video games and Metaverse applications. Mr. Marion provided insight as Florida becomes the next Silicon Valley for modeling, simulation and Metaverse. Mr. Marion also shared his experience on laser scanners, lidar, sonar, radar, drones and other remote sensing technologies to map real environments to produce 3D models which integrate into game engines such as Unreal and Unity. Marc generously shared resources to help the younger generation explore the Metaverse. He gave links to potential schools to look into as well as links to websites that can explain more about the Metaverse.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE METAVERSE**

- Metaverse Hardware Builder
- Metaverse Cyber Security
- Metaverse Research Scientist
- Metaverse Planner
- Ecosystem Developer

**MARC MARION, INDUSTRY LEADER**

## CONGRESS APP CHALLENGE

Shooting Stars hosted a Congress App Challenge Training Camp in October 2022 as a prep event for students interested in participating in the November 2022 CAC. More than 50 middle and high school students submitted their apps. As a result, many students who participated in our training camp won in their district! We are extremely proud of their work and look forward to seeing how they will continue to grow!



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# US STEM Programs

## NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING EVENT

130 people attended our November Shooting Stars Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event in Fremont, CA.

As an organization we are very humbled to get the time, heart and mindshare of such generous supporters of STEM education for the underserved. Attended by our Board Chairman Brian McCann and 2 other board members, Kevin Lee and Uma Meyyappan, the event was packed with current progress and future plans of Shooting Stars, stories of lives benefitted through the donors and volunteers as well as scrumptious food, fun and games. We at Shooting Stars were glad to have the opportunity to show a small token of appreciation for all of their generosity!

### DONOR AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

- NOV-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## DECEMBER FUNDRAISING EVENT

Portland, Oregon has always been a home base of supporters of Shooting Stars, thanks to Subha Singaram who has been associated with the organization since its inception. With an amazing set of ambassadors and supporters, SSF volunteers put together a donor appreciation show on December 10th, 2022. More than 350 people attended the comedy show, delicious dinner, and learned about the impact of Shooting Stars. More than 50 donors from Portland attended the event, coming together to share their passions for STEM college scholarship for the underserved. All attendees left the event with their stomach and hearts full of passion with a warm feeling of having impacted the community in their own way. Thank you donors and volunteers for your amazing support over the years and walking with us in our journey of eliminating generational poverty through STEM education.



# Quarter Highlights

## VISITS TO CORPORATES

Shooting Stars Foundation had exciting partnership exploration meetings with new connects & leaders at Genesys, PayPal and at Namma School foundation by Tamil Nadu Government in Jan 2023.

At Genesys we met Mrs. Deepa Madhavan, VP & India country head, and their CSR team members Mr. Vijay Krishna & Swathe. They were very impressed by the impact created by SSF, the programs and the structure and expertise with which we run them. They were keen to engage with us on STEM programs, to explore internship opportunities and host events celebrating women's history month.

At PayPal we met with their CSR leaders, Mrs. SaiSheela Rajan and Mr. Narayanan Seetharaman. They were very appreciative of all our engagement events and the programs we have executed. We explored opportunities to partner with PayPal on a girls-in-tech program. We also discussed possibilities of applying for their Grant program.

We had the wonderful opportunity to meet Mrs. Shyamala Ashok, as part of our meet up with Namma School foundation. She is an industry veteran in the NGO, CSR and education space. It was great to learn about the Namma School initiative by the Tamil Nadu Government, which aims to bring government schools with specific needs and sponsors together (both individual & corporate) to make an impact. SSF found a great opportunity to identify deserving scholars through this platform. We are in talks with them for the next steps!

We met enthusiastic and engaged leaders at KLA Tencor, our newest corporate partner, to discuss a girls-only STEM Hackathon at their office premises opening it up as a wonderful opportunity for their employees and volunteers to experience the personal impact they can create.

Subsequent to the meeting in Jan, the team at SSF worked with the KLA Tencor team and pulled off a fabulous Hackathon event in Feb, that received great participation, volunteering and lasting impact for both the 50+ girl students from across the city as well as the volunteers from KLA Tencor. They were thrilled that SSF was a great partner in ideating, planning and executing the hackathon event flawlessly.



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# INDIA Programs

## NETSCOUT TECH FOR GOOD HACKATHON

On January 21st-22nd, Shooting Stars hosted the NETSCOUT Tech for Good Hackathon - A two day hacking event at Trinity College of Engineering and Research to inspire young women 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 a professional Q&A panel discussion.

In the Women in Tech panel, participants had the opportunity to hear from female leaders firsthand about their experiences and what they could do to become future leaders as well. The panelists included Raji Srinivasan (Director Business Systems, NETSCOUT), Mukta Mukhija (Sr. Director of Engineering, NETSCOUT), and Yvonne Erdogan (Director of Operations, NETSCOUT). They spoke to the participants about how maintaining a positive attitude and building on their skills will lead them to their professional passions.

Additionally, participants heard from our SSF Program Coordinator, Aysath Rukshana. Rukshana kicked off the hackathon with tips and tricks on how to win a hackathon and gave a complete overview of the Tech For Good Guidebook.

## HACKATHON IMPACT

- 1035 participants from across India joined the hackathon
- 87% participants report increased expertise in programming
- 93% of participants would attend another SSF Hackathon
- 95% of participants would recommend this Hackathon to a friend
- 97% 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 28 tech mentors who were available throughout the hacking period, the participants were able to progress tremendously with their projects. During the Hackathon, participants were tasked with building websites using tech tools to give standardized solutions to current issues.

Highlights from the participants :

"I liked this opportunity for like-minded tech students to come together and develop an innovative solution. Helped us understand where exactly our interest lies as we explore various challenges to tackle. Not only get exposed but also learn the new technologies which greatly help in progressing our skills in the computer science domain." -Suhas, Hackathon Participant

"The crowd was super cool, we could make some new friends and learn things about their colleges. The industry experts we met could guide us through by sharing their journey. We realized the significance of real life conundrums and even bigger significance of their solutions." -Akash, Hackathon Participant




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# INDIA Programs


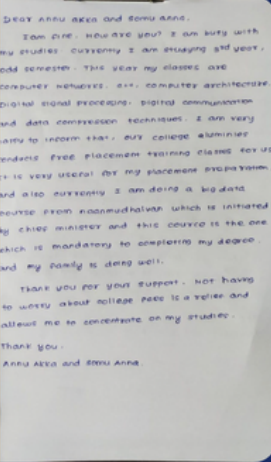
## NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO DONORS

On the New Years Eve, The Shooting Stars Foundation sent 350+ letters to donors wishing them a very happy New Year. This letter had a picture of the student and a handwritten letter from the student wishing the donor best for the year ahead.


The letter included details on how the donations helped the scholar move ahead and how grateful they're for their generous donations. Indeed serving humanity is serving God.

**SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION**

**THANK YOU DONORS**  
For brightening the life of our scholars!



**DONOR:- ANNU SOMASUNDARAM**  
**SCHOLAR:- SARANYA N**



Wishing you a very  
**Happy New Year**  
—Your Shooting Stars Family  
Shooting-Stars-Foundatio.org

## CHENNAI SCHOLARS MEET-UP

On Jan 29th, 2023 25 of our Shooting Stars scholars met up with Latha Narayanan, Jayashree Sundaresan and Shiva for half a day well spent knowing each other, getting key pointers and advice on how to think differently and increase our confidence along with fun games! We ended the day with a hearty lunch and recognizing out scholars who had job placements.



## AMAZING SESSION ON JOHARI WINDOW BY JAYASHREE

Our Board Member, Ms. Jayashree, who is also a Industry leader from COGNIZANT hosted a session on the Johari Window with our SSF Scholars. It was an insightful event with more than 50 participants who had the opportunity to learn about Johari Window, a framework for understanding conscious and unconscious bias that can help increase self-awareness and our understanding of others. All the participants at the end of the day were able to deeply analyze themselves and work on what is required to attain self-confidence.



# INDIA Scholar Programs

## Career Advancement Session

On Jan 19th 2023, 30 of our GCT Coimbatore SSF Scholars along with Latha Narayannan visited Cognizant office in Coimbatore and attended a Career Advancement session. Cognizant employees conducted an interactive career session as well as an engaging group discussion. The scholars gained key takeaways on how to get a good job, how to progress in initial years, etc. Thank you Nirmal, Kamal, Balakumar and more for making this possible for our scholars!



 AT COGNIZANT, COIMBATORE

## How to Ace an Interview



The session on "How to ace an interview" was incredibly useful for students seeking to be placed. Ms. Fathima, with her vast professional experience, especially that of recruiting fresh graduates shared some quick tips and tricks on "How to ace an interview". She explained what employers are looking for and how can students present themselves in the best possible light.

## Youth Officer Spotlight

This quarter we are excited to introduce and spotlight our 2023 Shooting Stars Youth Officer President! We are grateful for her leadership and her passion for serving others!



SANJANA SUDHEER

"My name is Sanjana Sudheer and I am a Junior located in Northern Virginia. My time with Shooting Stars Foundation has been a transformational journey, where I personally grew from a student of SSF to a coach to the President, thanks to SSF leaders and mentors. When I joined SSF as a coach, it was amazing being able to showcase what I previously knew, in order to teach kids who wanted to learn more about the subject. Seeing the curiosity in the students and coaches around me has played a crucial part in inspiring me to work harder with SSF. It has continued to be a wonderful experience to see how SSF plays a key role with underprivileged and minority kids to pursue their dreams over the years."

# Placement Highlights



## SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

Really SSF helped a lot in my studies through financial as well as in career building also. MILT program, Six phrase placement training, Hello English helped me a lot.



B.E EEE student placed at Lucas TVS Electric vehicle, Padi, Chennai as GET /R&D.



Govinda



## SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

"Providing Scholarships for my studies was a great help i could expect. The training given by SSF helped me to get placed. Thank you SSF and my donor."



B.E EEE student placed at Alstom India private limited, Bengalore as Automation Engineer.



Harshal Khotare



## SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

First of all, I really thank to SSF from bottom of my heart for the help they provide me and the support in terms of providing me mentorship, and help me for improving my communication skills and because of my donor I was more focused on my studies.



Computer Science and Technology student placed at Navi, Banglore as Software Developer Engineer.



Sabareesh



## SCHOLAR PLACEMENT

"Really SSF helped me in getting my laptop. Through SSF, my donors helped me to get settled with my fees. I am very grateful to SSF as this has paved way for me to get my book fees paid too! Thank you SSF."



B.E EEE student placed at Alstom India private limited, Bengalore as YGET.



Pranav



# Upcoming Events and Programs

Program	Location	Dates
Cognizant All Girls College Hackathon	Coimbatore, India	April 1, 2023
Monthly STEM Panel - Career Hub: The Future of Automation	Online	April 1, 2023
Genesys Young Women Conference	Chennai, India	April 8, 2023
Netscout All Girls Hackathon	Allen, Texas	April 29, 2023
EAH In Person Summer Programming	EAH Housing	June, 2023
Amgen Entrepreneurship Program	Tampa, FL	July, 2023
Amgen Bioinformatics Camp	San Francisco, CA	July, 2023
Tech Immersion Program	Online	July, 2023





SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

# WANT TO BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER?



## PARTNER WITH SSF



@shootingstarsorg



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting-stars-foundation-inc



@support@sstarsfoundation.org



### STEM CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES WITH STEM

#### SSF Mission

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

#### SSF Impact



@shootingstars @shootingstarsfoundationorg @shooting-stars-foundation-inc @support@sstarsfoundation.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



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



### 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>