



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

April – June 2024

NEWS LETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable

Mission and Vision

At Shooting Stars Foundation, we envision a future where all young people have equal access to 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, we held the Shooting Stars FY24 Status and Strategy Meetup, which was inaugurated by Brian McCann from our Board of Directors. Latha Narayanan, the CEO of Shooting Stars Foundation, set the stage with an insightful overview of our progress and strategic direction.

The event also welcomed our valued donors, who joined us to celebrate our achievements and discuss future initiatives. The meet-up provided a platform to review our accomplishments, align our goals, and outline our strategies for continued success in the upcoming year.

Marching Towards Our Vision

1105

STEM scholars funded

6510

students served since BOY 2021

QUARTER - 02

**SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION
FY24 STRATEGY**

**EMPOWERING PROGRESS, SHAPING FUTURES:
TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE**

A GOODBYE AND A THANK YOU !

This quarter we at Shooting Stars Foundation are saddened as we bid farewell to Mariel McCann. Mariel has been an exceptional program manager at SSF and has been working with us for over three years by now.



Right from designing Version 2 of the SSF website in 2021, to creating and running playbooks for various STEM Programs benefitting more than 10,000 students, to running the Grants Program for SSF getting multiple Grants approves, until the last week of publishing the 2023 Annual Report, she is a perfect example of a conscientious and diligent team member.

Shooting Stars is in a very different position in 2024 because of Mariel. We are grateful for her dedication and contributions. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

WESTERN DIGITAL ALL GIRLS HACKATHON (ONLINE AND OFFLINE)

The All Girls Hack 2024, fueled by Western Digital's visionary support, ignited a future of Tech for Good champions. Thirty-eight brilliant high school girls' teams, mentored by industry leaders, not only honed their coding and app development skills but also discovered a passion for STEM careers. Guided by passionate industry leaders and our dedicated SSF team, these young innovators embarked on a transformative journey.

Witness the impact: 97% yearn to return for another empowering event, a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and empowerment. The spark ignited a passion for STEM – a staggering 92% are now more likely to pursue life-changing careers in this critical field. With your continued support, we can keep this flame burning bright, illuminating the path for a generation of tech heroines, ready to change the world with innovative solutions for a better tomorrow!



"She got exposed to web application and app development. She understands SDLC lifecycle and the procee of development. She learned to wok as a team." - Ananya Bontha's Parents

WESTERN DIGITAL ALL GIRLS HACKATHON

SANDISK DR, MILPITAS, CA + ONLINE



US STEM Programs

EAH GAME DESIGN

This quarter we're thrilled to share the success of our recent Game Design Camp, dedicated to increasing access to STEM education for all. The camp saw the participation of 14 students from 6th to 12th grade, representing EAH Low Income Housing Communities across California and Hawaii. With 37 registrations and two additional students attending consistently, the camp provided a comprehensive and engaging learning experience.

The primary goal of the camp was to introduce students to coding and programming basics in a fun and hands-on way. Guided by peer mentees Ashi Tyagi, Shreenidhi Kunta, Vishal Varma, and Stella Lee, the students delved into various aspects of game design. They learned about video game structure, set up graphics, programmed and coded game functions, and fine-tuned their creations.

The camp culminated in a showcase day, where students demoed their finished video games to SSF, EAH representatives, and parents, competing for the top spot. The outcomes of the camp were outstanding. Students worked together to create a game from start to finish, leaving the camp with a completed game and a strong introduction to programming.

More than \$150 was distributed to participants in rewards and incentives.

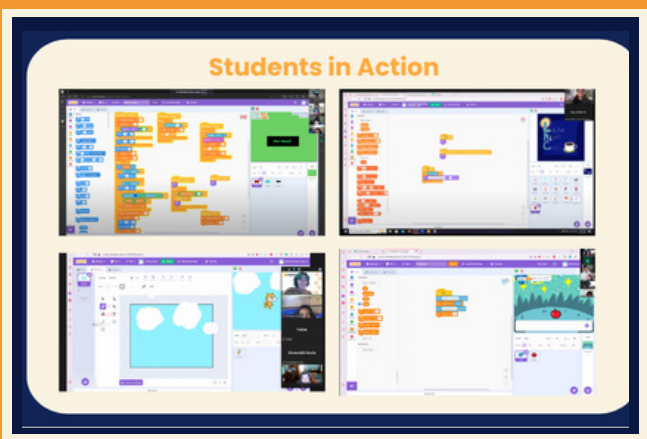
Students reported a significant increase in their understanding and comfort with game design and development. Specifically, 72% of participants rated their skills with programming and game design as "Very Comfortable" after the camp, marking a 35% improvement from the first day.

Additionally, 100% of participants enjoyed the camp, and 93% said they would recommend it to their friends. Coach feedback was unanimously positive.

Overall, the Game Design Camp not only provided valuable technical skills but also fostered teamwork and creativity among the participants. SSF is proud of the achievements and progress made by the students and looks forward to organizing more such enriching programs in the future.

The Students thoroughly enjoyed the program, the parents were amazed at the outcome.

"Coach Rowan answered every question I had perfectly. They were very helpful and were at a perfect and comfortable pace of speed."- Jaycee, Participant <tt>



**SHOOTING STARS
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India Programs

OPTIV SCHOLARS MEET

A heartfelt thank you to Optiv for their generous support and unwavering commitment! On the 22nd of April, a special event was held to honor 10 out of the 15 Optiv scholars.

These deserving students were celebrated with goodie bags filled with thoughtful gifts, and they enjoyed a delightful lunch at Optiv Office located in Bangalore - in recognition of their hard work and achievements. The event was not just a celebration but a testament to the transformative impact of Optiv's sponsorship.

Optiv's support is making a tremendous difference in their academic journeys, providing them with the resources and encouragement they need to excel. The scholars' faces lit up with joy and gratitude, reflecting how much your contributions mean to them.

Thank you Optiv for investing in their futures and for being such a vital part of their success stories.



SINGAR SKILLING CENTRE

This quarter, we successfully launched the Singar Skilling Program's Core Tech Module in Full Stack Development.

This six-month, free program includes in-depth training in front-end and back-end technologies, soft skills enhancement, industry internships, and real-world projects. Following a rigorous selection process, 35 students were chosen to participate.

With placement assistance integrated into the program, we are already seeing this initiative pave the way for these graduates to excel in the competitive tech industry. The program officially kicked off on June 17th, 2024, and since then, we've been inspired by the participants' enthusiasm, curiosity, and drive. Each student is not only honing their technical abilities but also building the professional competencies to thrive in the digital world.



STEM Programs

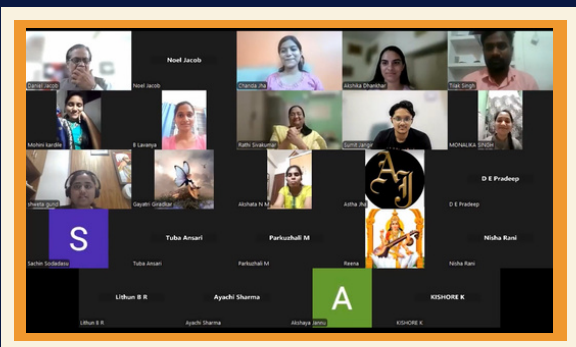
MILT TRAINING PROGRAM

In this quarter, we proudly ran the MILT batch with over 20 students. The MILT – PEAK PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP, a leading international leadership training program, is expertly conducted by Mr. Daniel Jacob, who has over 20 years of experience and a track record of success.

This program focuses on developing essential leadership qualities, building inner confidence, and fostering positive thinking while approaching life holistically. Throughout the program, students witness significant improvements in their presentation and speaking skills, with results becoming evident session by session.

Many participants from SSF who completed this training have successfully secured positions in major MNCs, highlighting the program's profound impact on career advancement.

The workshop continues to be a transformative experience, equipping students with skills that make a real difference in their professional journeys and personal growth.



Spotlight

MENTORS AND JUDGES SPOTLIGHT



We at Shooting Stars Foundation would like to thank all the volunteer mentors and judges who have made the Western Digital All Girls Hackathon possible! Your efforts are truly appreciated and have helped to make this event a success.



Spotlight

PAST PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

This quarter, Shooting Stars Foundation is proud to announce an amazing winner of Orlando District, Shiva, who took part in Shooting Stars 3rd annual Congressional App Challenge camp mentored by SSF coach Abigail Batinda.

He won the District round and was invited to Washington DC to present his App called 'Lift Life' which connects persons with disabilities with resources in the community.

At the Congress, Shiva presented his App to U.S. congressmen and the public and demoed the App that connects people with disabilities with needed resources: medical equipment bank, day programs, caregiver support, therapists and connect with other families with disabilities.

His achievement is a shining example of how young innovators can make a meaningful impact on society. Congratulations, Shiva, on this incredible accomplishment!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Our donors are the backbone of our mission, and their stories of support and engagement inspire us every day. We are thrilled to highlight the experience of one of our dedicated donors:

"We began volunteering with Shooting Stars when our son Amrith joined as a Youth Officer. SSF has been very transparent throughout the sponsorship process. We are able to communicate with the CEO, Latha, on questions and concerns anytime. It is peace of mind for any donor to know the sponsorship funds are spent efficiently for a good cause. Witnessing our scholars graduate, find jobs, support their families, and give back to society is such an incredible feeling."

-Akila and Nanda, Donor, Shooting Stars Foundation



**SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION**

Spotlight

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This quarter we take the privilege to thank Kalpana, our amazing volunteer. She has been an invaluable volunteer with the Shooting Stars Foundation, dedicating her time and energy to support our mission.

Here's what she has to say about her experience:

Like all parents, I was looking for some meaningful volunteering opportunities for my son and that's when I met SSF's CEO, Latha. As I started working with Latha and her team, I realized the depth of their passion for serving and educating. Educate all to eradicate poverty is the mission statement of my family and I have always worked towards this, hence I could align completely with SSF's mission. I have helped orchestrate multiple camps and both my kids are involved with SSF. I also had the opportunity to be a donor for SSF and continue to look forward to new opportunities with SSF. Thanks, Latha!

—Kalpana, Volunteer, Shooting Stars Foundation



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Kritika Kumari's journey from Patna, Bihar to IIT Delhi is a testament to her resilience and the impact of the support she received along the way.

After the passing of her father, relatives stepped in to assist the family, and so did Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF). SSF not only covered her educational expenses but also equipped her with essential leadership and public speaking skills, giving her a competitive edge during campus placements.

This led to her successful placement at Accenture Solutions. Achieving employment during a global recession is an amazing accomplishment!

"Thank you to my sponsor, Sanjukta for making my education and placement possible. I will now be able to make a difference in the lives of others. I hope to one day sponsor another SSF scholar."



**SHOOTING STARS
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Placement Highlights



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“

SSF and donor helped me financially which helped me in studies. SSF helped me by training me for the placements. It was because of SSF that I was able to focus on my academics instead of worrying about my finances. Thanks to SSF and my donor for all that they have done for me.



- Satyam Vats, Information Technology Student from National Institute of Karnataka, Surathkal, Mangalore

Graduate Engineer Trainee, National Payment Corporation of India

♥ 📄 ➔

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The SSF and the donor played a crucial role in my journey by providing financial support and resources that enabled me to focus on my studies without worrying about expenses. Their support not only enhanced my academic performance but also boosted my confidence and motivation to pursue my goals.



- Tarunkumar B T, CSE Student at Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore

Python developer, ITMTB, Pune

♥ 📄 ➔

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SSF plays a very major role in my life by providing me the scholarship and moral support. It helps in improving my skills and I'm very much thankful to my donor and SSF for the rest of my life. Without SSF I don't know how did I managed all. Thankyou SSF



- Ranjeni T, ECE Student at KSR INSTITUTE FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, Truchenrhode


Management Trainee, Sanmina Sci pvt lmt, Chennai

♥ 📄 ➔

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SSF and my donor played a pivotal role in helping me complete my undergraduate degree by providing essential financial assistance, mentorship programs, and training sessions. Their support allowed me to focus on my academics and develop crucial skills in communication and technical areas, ultimately helping me secure a position at Exterro. I am profoundly thankful to SSF and my donor for making my journey smoother and more manageable.



- Ananth S, EEE Student at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore

Software Developer Engineer, Exterro, Coimbatore

♥ 📄 ➔

*All scholar names are changed for privacy purposes



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
WWT Hackathon	College Students	Online	August 3, 2024
TechBridge Program	9th to 12th Graders - Latino College Prep	San Jose, CA	July 8-26, 2024
Detroit Hispanic Dev Corp Camp	Rising 9th - 12th grade students	Detroit, MI	July 9-17, 2024
Kaiser Financial Literacy Program	Rising 9th - 12th grade students	Bay Area and Online Hybrid	July 17-25, 2024
Amgen Thousand Oaks AI Entrepreneurship Camp	Middle and High school students in Thousand Oaks	Thousand Oaks	July 22nd-July 26th
Congressional App Challenge	Rising 6th - 12th grade students	Online	September 2024
Rangeela Portland Donor Event	For Donors from Portland	Portland, OR - Donors	September 22, 2024
IBM Z Datathon	College Students Internationally	Chennai, Bangalore, London, Oslo	October 2024
Bioinformatics Camp	Rising 9th - 12th grade students	Online	November 2-11, 2024





SHOOTING STARS FOUNDATION

WANT TO BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER?

Email us at: support@sstarsfoundation.org



@shootingstarsorg



@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



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@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
- 3 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



Partners



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>