

NEWSLETTER

July- September 2025

Educate | Empower | Enable

Pic: SSF Family Meet 2025

Mission and Vision

Vision: Empowering communities to break the cycle of generational poverty through STEM education

Mission: 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.

July to September 2025 were truly energizing months at the Shooting Stars Foundation as we continued our mission to transform lives through education, innovation, and empowerment. The quarter was marked by the much-awaited SSF Annual Family Meet 2025, entrepreneurship and STEM camps that ignited creativity, and international showcases that celebrated our scholars' achievements on a global stage; a testament to the collective spirit of learning, leadership, and impact that drives SSF forward. Here's all that transpired this quarter:



Marching Towards Our Vision

1278+ STEM scholars funded

11,180 Students attended our hackathons since BOY 2021



July 2025 Highlights

Where Innovation Meets Empowerment

WWT All India Women-Only Hackathon 2025

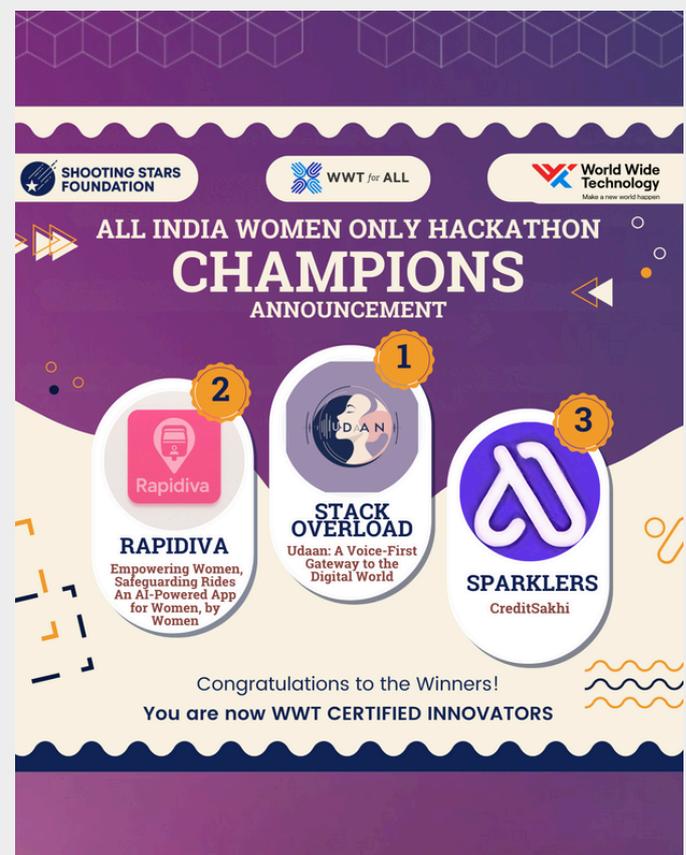
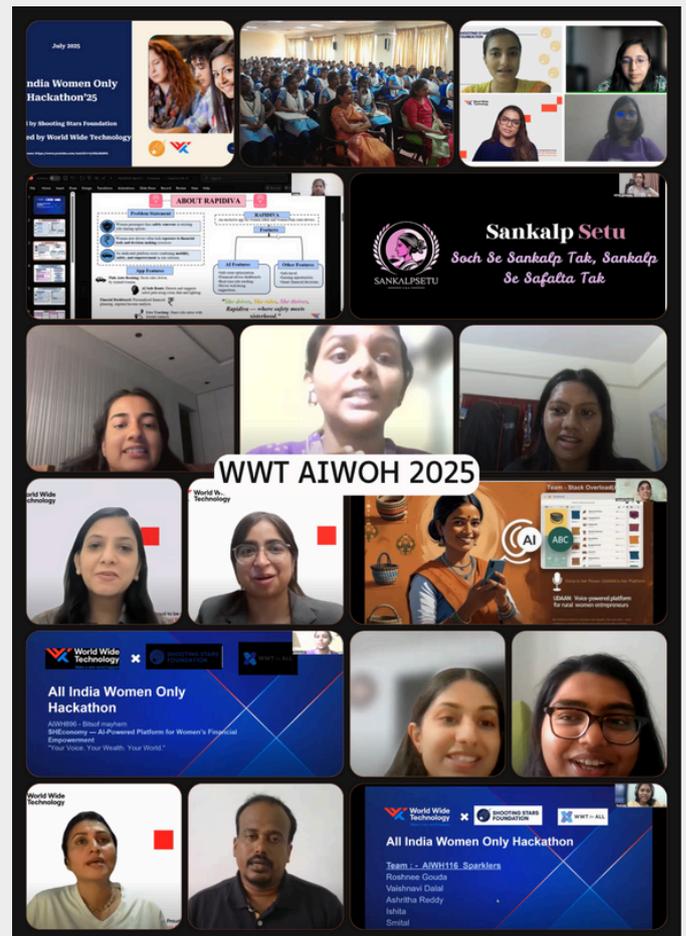
From July 5 to 13, 2025, the second edition of the WWT All India Women-Only Hackathon became a powerhouse of innovation, collaboration, and inspiration. Over 6,000 young women from across India – 40% from low-income families or first-generation graduates – came together to tackle real-world challenges using AI for financial literacy and economic empowerment.

Forming 1,075 teams, these changemakers submitted more than 700 groundbreaking ideas, from AI-driven rural banking assistants to budgeting tools designed for women entrepreneurs. Guided by expert mentors from the World Wide Technology (WWT), 25 finalist teams refined their solutions and turned bold ideas into tangible prototypes.

The impact was profound:

- 92% of participants reported feeling more confident applying AI to real-world problems
- 68% expressed a desire to volunteer with SSF to mentor future cohorts
- And nearly every finalist said the experience inspired them to pursue careers in tech, data science, or social entrepreneurship

This wasn't just a hackathon – it was a launchpad for women innovators shaping the future of technology and inclusion in India.



July 2025 Highlights



SSF Team Meet, Bengaluru

On July 22–23, 2025, members of the SSF team came together in Bengaluru for an energizing two-day meet filled with rich discussions, fresh ideas, and plenty of camaraderie.

We were privileged to be joined by SSF India Board Members Mr. Venkatanathan R and Mr. Panduranga Rao whose guidance and vision brought valuable perspective and helped us reflect on ways to strengthen our impact — both across India and globally.



Of course, no SSF gathering is complete without moments of laughter and shared experiences! From enjoying a classic South Indian thali to exchanging stories, hobbies, and aspirations, the meet reminded us of the vibrant community that binds us together.

Though our team spans cities and continents, these in-person connections reaffirm that we're more than a remote team — we're a united force driven by purpose, passion, and the belief that education can transform lives.

Amgen STEM Entrepreneurship Program – Tampa & Thousand Oaks

From July 21–24 in Tampa and July 28–31 in Thousand Oaks, the Amgen STEM Entrepreneurship Program brought together more than 300 high school students for two dynamic camps designed to spark innovation and entrepreneurial thinking.

In Tampa, over 100 students immersed themselves in the startup journey — from user research and product design to pitch decks and financial modeling. A week later in Thousand Oaks, 200+ students joined in, marking another year of remarkable growth and impact.



Guided by mentors from Amgen, Google, NVIDIA, and Khan Academy, participants developed groundbreaking ideas — from AI-powered health solutions to financial literacy apps for teens. The results were inspiring:

- 16 startup ideas were pitched to judges, with several already being refined post-camp
- Students reported greater confidence in leadership, communication, and financial planning
- For many, it was their first time envisioning a future in technology, design, or entrepreneurship.

July 2025 Highlights



Richmond Youth Financial Literacy & Coding Camp



In partnership with Richmond YouthWORKS and funded by the Richmond ECIA grant, nearly 50 local youth completed a transformative two-week camp, culminating on July 31.

By the finale, students who had never before worked with budgets or coding were able to:

- Read pay stubs and balance monthly budgets
- Showcase Python-powered projects at Richmond City Hall
- Earn a \$500 stipend for their dedication and hard work

“They’re walking away with skills that will serve them for life,” shared Vanessa, our program lead — and we couldn’t agree more!



DHDC Bioinformatics Camp

The Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), in collaboration with the Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF), conducted two engaging Bioinformatics Camps this year — a virtual camp from July 28–30 and an in-person session from August 4–6 at the DHDC office in Detroit.

The camps introduced students, including many from the Hispanic community, to the interdisciplinary world of bioinformatics — where biology and technology come together to solve complex scientific challenges. Through interactive sessions, hands-on activities, and expert-led discussions, participants explored how data-driven science is transforming healthcare, genetics, and research.



Students displayed exceptional curiosity and enthusiasm, bringing forward bright ideas and a deep interest in STEM innovation. Their active participation underscored the growing potential of young minds to drive future advancements in science and technology.

August 2025 Highlights



An Evening of Rhythm, Community, and Impact

SSF Fundraising Event



On August 16th in Dublin, California, the SSF community came alive with music, dance, and delicious food at Shooting Stars Beatz 2025 — our annual fundraising celebration with heart and purpose.

The event was a resounding success:

- 367 tickets sold, surpassing our target of 300, with 270 enthusiastic attendees
- 25+ high school youth officers signed up to volunteer for upcoming STEM programs
- 30 scholars sponsored, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers — and a special shoutout to Shruti and Deepa — for their energy, creativity, and dedication in making the evening truly unforgettable.



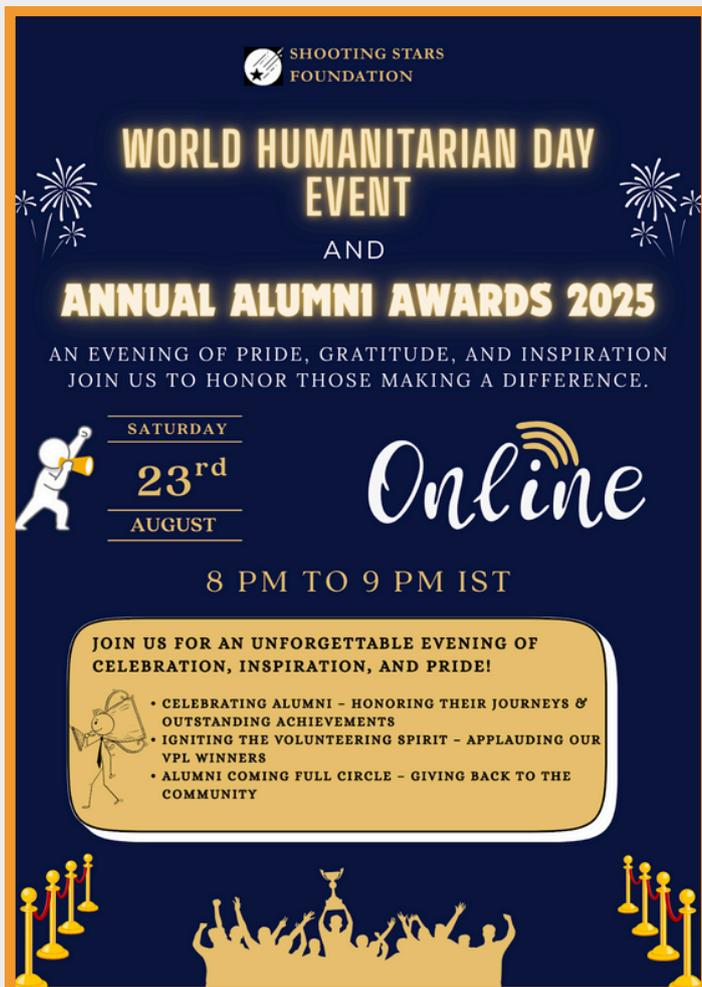
SSF Wins The National Humanitarian Excellence Award

We are deeply honored to announce that the Shooting Stars Foundation received the National Humanitarian Excellence Award 2025, recognizing our enduring impact and commitment to transforming lives through education.

Our alumna Kritika Kumari proudly accepted the award on our behalf during the 79th Independence Day & World Humanitarian Day Week, standing alongside 100+ changemakers from across the nation who are shaping a more compassionate and inclusive future.



Celebrating Humanitarian Day with our Alumni



SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY EVENT

AND

ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS 2025

AN EVENING OF PRIDE, GRATITUDE, AND INSPIRATION
JOIN US TO HONOR THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

SATURDAY
23rd
AUGUST

Online

8 PM TO 9 PM IST

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF
CELEBRATION, INSPIRATION, AND PRIDE!

- CELEBRATING ALUMNI - HONORING THEIR JOURNEYS & OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS
- IGNITING THE VOLUNTEERING SPIRIT - APPLAUDING OUR VPL WINNERS
- ALUMNI COMING FULL CIRCLE - GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

During World Humanitarian Day week, we proudly hosted our Annual Alumni Awards, honouring outstanding achievements in technology, healthcare, leadership, academics, and sports/fitness.

This year also saw the launch of our first Volunteering Premier League (VPL) 2025, where together we:

- Clocked 36 hours of volunteer work
- Mentored 5 scholars
- Reached out to 20 colleges for scholarship opportunities
- Conducted 13 new scholar interviews
- Connected 9 scholars with potential hiring opportunities

Missed the event? Catch the full live stream [here](#) and share it with your friends and networks to celebrate the impact!

Sept 2025 Highlights



Together We Rise: Highlights from the SSF Annual Family Meet 2025



The Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF) family came together on Sunday, 14th September 2025, in Chennai for a day filled with inspiration, connection, and celebration. Our Annual Family Meet is one of the most awaited events of the year – a moment when our scholars, alumni, volunteers, donors, mentors, board members, and staff gather under one roof to reflect on how far we've come and to dream about how much further we can go.

Once a year, SSF scholars travel from across India – from small towns, rural villages, and bustling cities – to be part of this special day that truly embodies the heart of our mission: Educate • Enable • Empower.



Inspiring Voices, Lasting Wisdom

The day began with a warm welcome and words of encouragement from our Guests of Honor — Dr. Ramanathan Vairavan, Chairman, Alagappa Group of Institutions; Ranjini Manian, Founder-Chair at Champion Woman & Life Coach; and Shivkumar S, Founder Trustee- Karam Korpom Foundation. Each of them brought a unique perspective on leadership, purpose, and resilience, leaving our scholars with lessons they will carry throughout their journeys. Their words reminded us that education isn't just about knowledge — it's about courage, compassion, and the will to create change.



Panels That Sparked Possibilities



This year's Family Meet featured two powerful and parallel panel discussions designed to spark thought and direction:

- "Beyond the Fear: How AI is Creating the Next Generation of Jobs"
- Featuring industry leaders Priyanshu Mishra, VP, Crayon Data; Madhan Kumar G, Sr Engineer, Worldwide Technologies and Jayashree Sundaresan, Senior Director, Freshworks this session demystified artificial intelligence and helped scholars see how technology can open doors to new, meaningful careers rather than replace them.
- "Mediverse 2025" – A session exclusively for our MBBS and medical scholars, led by Dr. Uma Ramesh (Senior Ophthalmologist) and Priya Kannan, Consultant Embryologist explored the evolving world of medicine and how young doctors can prepare to serve with skill and empathy in an ever-changing landscape.

A heartfelt thanks to our incredible panelists for engaging with our scholars' questions and showing them what's possible with passion and perseverance.

Sept 2025 Highlights

Dream It. Dare It. Do It.

Post lunch, the energy soared during our hands-on leadership and communication workshop, “Dream it. Dare it. Do it.” Conducted by Lakshmi Subramanian (Executive Director, Global Adjustments) from Champions for Women, this interactive session helped scholars build 30–60–90 day action plans, practice confident communication, and leave with a one-page roadmap brimming with clarity and self-belief.



Stories That Touched Every Heart

The most emotional moments of the day came when our alumni and parents took the stage.

Our engineering alumni shared powerful stories of how SSF's support shaped their careers, while our medical alumni—dressed proudly in their white coats and stethoscopes—inspired current MBBS scholars to stay committed to their calling. When parents of scholars came forward to share their children's stories of resilience and transformation, there wasn't a dry eye in the room. The scholars, in turn, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices their parents had made — creating a beautiful cycle of pride, love, and purpose.



Sept 2025 Highlights



The SSF Family Meet 2025 was more than an event — it was a celebration of grit, growth, and gratitude. It reflected how far we've come together and how much further we can go when guided by purpose and unity.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every scholar, alumnus, parent, donor, mentor, CSR partner, guest, and volunteer who made this day unforgettable.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission — to educate minds, enable dreams, and empower change-makers who will, in turn, uplift others.

Together, we will continue to convert grit into growth — and growth into service.

**Onward with
Educate • Enable • Empower**



SIEMENS ENERGY – Girls with Energy Online Hackathon

The Girls with Energy Online Hackathon, powered by Siemens Energy in collaboration with the Shooting Stars Foundation (SSF), was held on September 13–14, 2025, bringing together bright young minds from across the U.S. and Canada to innovate for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

THEME

**ENERGY4GOOD
USE TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE CLEAN,
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

The world is facing big challenges – climate change, pollution, and not enough access to clean energy in many places.



The event kicked off with inspiring messages from Siemens Energy's leaders, including Kate Siegel (Executive I&B Sponsor, Charlotte, NC), Lilia Drisitas (Executive I&B Sponsor, Houston, TX), and Jana Nythruva (Executive I&B Sponsor, Orlando, FL). Their words set the tone for an empowering weekend dedicated to innovation, collaboration, and inclusion in the energy sector.

The hackathon featured an impressive lineup of keynote speakers, including:

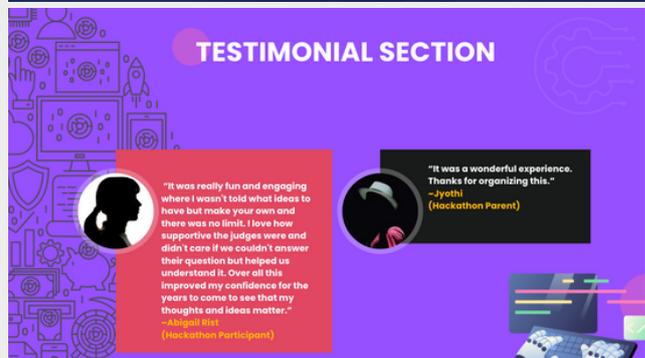
- Scott Luzzi, CFO Executive Sponsor & VP, Finance North America Hub, Siemens Energy
- Sandra Guerra, Head of HR North America / Vice President, Siemens Energy
- Rich Voorberg, CEO Executive Sponsor & President, Siemens Energy North America

**216 registrations
171 participants**

Girls with Energy: Project Showcase



TESTIMONIAL SECTION



This initiative, part of Siemens Energy's Girls with Energy program, aimed to encourage more female participation in the energy sector by giving students a platform to design technology-driven solutions for real-world energy challenges. Participants benefited from expert mentorship, collaborative problem-solving sessions, and the opportunity to learn new technologies, network with industry professionals, and win exciting prizes.

The hackathon received an overwhelming 216 registrations, including 190 from the United States and 26 from Canada. Of these, 147 were high school students and 69 were from middle schools, with a total of 171 participants completing the event.

Through this initiative, Siemens Energy and SSF continue to empower young women to lead the charge toward a more sustainable energy future, nurturing a generation of innovators ready to make a lasting impact.

Join Hands with Us

At Shooting Stars Foundation, we believe every dream deserves a chance to shine. Through scholarships, mentorship, skill-building programs, and holistic support, we empower underprivileged youth across India to pursue higher education, secure meaningful employment, and become change-makers in their communities.

This year, your support has helped light up countless journeys— from remote villages to corporate boardrooms, from hardship to hope. But there are many more stars waiting to rise.

Adopt a Scholar – Give a student the wings to pursue education without financial barriers.

Volunteer with Us – Share your time, skills, and knowledge to guide our students toward a brighter future.

Partner Through CSR – Collaborate with us to create scalable, sustainable impact in education and skilling.

Sponsor STEM Events – Inspire young minds through hackathons, camps, and hands-on STEM programs.

Together, we can break the cycle of poverty through education and empowerment.

Be the spark. Help us ignite possibilities.



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



SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION

EDUCATE | ENABLE | EMPOWER

