

Konkani Charities and Appeals



Aspiring Entrepreneurs, Inspiring Outcomes

Upaya Social Ventures builds businesses that create dignified jobs for the poorest of the poor in India. Upaya is a non-profit organization that believes in providing a "hand up" and not a "hand-out" to alleviate extreme poverty. To date, the organization has supported the development of five businesses that have created over 1,100 jobs. Please visit www.upayasv.org to learn more, or please feel free to contact Executive Director and Co-Founder Sachi Shenoy at sshenoy@upayasv.org

\$100 Award for Perfect SAT Score

In memory of Jayawant Bantwal, the family is awarding \$100.00 to any Konkani high school student with a perfect SAT score in 2017, Contact: gita01@aol.com

Chitrapur Heritage Foundation

711 Daylily Court, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, USA

Connecting US Amchis to Chitrapur Math

Founded in 2005, Chitrapur Heritage Foundation (CHF) is a Section 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. The mission of CHF is to provide a vital link for Amchis in the US to stay actively connected with our Chitrapur Math and our Guruparampara. Currently, CHF Chapters are located in four main regions across the US. Over the past decade, Amchis in the US have supported students' education, temple restoration & cladding, and promoted women's empowerment in the villages of Chitrapur and Shirali.

The activities of CHF include:

- Facilitate the collection of annual "Vantiga" payment from every earning Saraswat in the US - "Vantiga" supports and maintains the upkeep of our spiritual centers in Bengaluru, Gokam, Mallapur, Mangaluru, and Shirali;
- Promote cultural heritage by supporting temple restoration projects and maintenance of Chitrapur Museum archives;
- Support education of 100 students at the Srivalli High School through the "Sponsor-A-Student" Scheme; and
- Preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Chitrapur Saraswat community in the US through Monthly Satsang and Prarthana Varga for children, and by celebrating festivals like Yugadi, Ram Navami, Gokulashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratri, Diwali.



NRI Yuvas volunteering at Seva Saptaha & Parijnanashram Vidyalaya



Report by 17 year old Anoushka Karnad

The week after Karla NRI Shibir in August, some of the shibirarthis (Rishi Hattiangadi, Kulkarni Smitapacchi, and my family) participated in Seva Saptaha and Parijnanashram Vidyalaya volunteering. Seva Saptaha helped us understand Karla Math's day to day operations. Working in the kitchen involved drying plates, bowls, and cups, and also serving food to devotees. We also concurrently worked in a pilot volunteering program in the Vidyalaya. The work sounds tedious, but was really fun. In a stress-free environment, we learned to smile more, and met many intelligent and successful people.

Volunteering at the school was an experience that we will never forget. Through pre-designed and pre-approved activities, we taught the 1st standard students of Parijnanashram Vidyalaya various Mathematics and English language concepts, including measuring, 2-D shapes, 3-D shapes, vegetables, fruits, actions, emotions, and spatial relationships. We taught them these concepts using hands on activities and games. The activity plans were prepared in advance (Thanks to Heble Geetapacchi and my mother Neena Karnad) we had permission from the school to conduct these activities that reinforced the lessons. In addition, we taught the students the importance of washing hands. We taught them the "hand washing" song that I had composed. By the end of the week, the students had memorized the hand-washing song.

The students demonstrated high levels of enthusiasm. The teachers and students were very open and receptive to our being there, and we hope that the program continues in the future.

We also organized the school's library by labelling all the books in the library and completing the library catalogue. Being at the school was very fulfilling, and we are happy that the administration and the students enjoyed our presence there. Hopefully, we will be able to perform service at the Karla Math in the future.

My kid brother, 10-year old Hrishikesh Karnad, was perhaps the youngest sevak participating in the Seva Saptaha and school volunteering. Proud of you bro! We truly hope that in future more and more NRI youth like us stay at the Karla Math and do Seva Saptaha and volunteer at Parijnanashram Vidyalaya. It is a very enriching experience that I will cherish all my life.

Anoushka Karnad

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