



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

Social & Economic Justice for All
(NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

PO Box 2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287
<http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org>

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

Oct., 2014

Year of Establishment: 1978

Lead- Founder Member:
(Late) Mr. Yashwant Kanitkar

Tax Exemption ID
Under IRS Section
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United Way NY, NJ, CT
Agency Code 011675

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Vinata Kulkarni
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Vaibhav Sathe
Pallavee Patwardhan

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Hello friends,

Summer is over and Ganeshotsav is also gone by! The schools have started and the families are busy with their routines. For Maharashtra Foundation also activities have picked up. The Annual General Body meeting took place on Sunday, July 27, 2014. This year Vasumati Deshpande retired after serving as a secretary for 2 years on the board of directors. Snehal Vaze has been elected on the board for the remaining term of Vasumati Deshpande. Snehal is a prominent and experienced community volunteer and brings a dedicated and passionate member to the board. Sushama Patil stepped down from the board in August 2014 as she needs to devote more time to her other commitments. Pallavee Patwardhan from Atlanta has been invited to fill Sushama's vacant position. Pallavee's enthusiasm means tremendous value to the Foundation. Her addition to the board broadens Foundation's base in Atlanta area. I feel very confident that Vaibhav and Pallavee together will help in expanding the outreach of Maharashtra Foundation in that part of the country.

On 20th August 2014 we marked one-year death anniversary of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. As you know, Maharashtra Foundation has installed a prize of Rs 100,000 in his memory, to be awarded to a social worker continuing his life mission of Andhashraddha Nirmulan. We have created an endowment fund and every year the award will be given from the interest earned on that fund. I encourage you to donate to Dr. Dabholkar Award fund.

Maharashtra Foundation went to Cary, North Carolina, in the efforts to reach out to the community there. Local friends had planned the first ever fund raising event in that area to benefit "Stree Mukti Sanghatana", one of Foundation's partner NGO which Foundation has been supporting for many years. The report of that event is included in this issue. Similar efforts are on way to do an event in Connecticut in December 2014.

Foundation's Annual Fund Raising Event will take place on 8th November 2014 in Grover Middle School of West Windsor-Plainsboro school district in West Windsor, New Jersey. Maharashtra Foundation family and friends look forward to this annual event. We have organized a panel discussion "Social Impact Redefined: How the Next Generation is Driving Change" on this day. The panelists are Shuma Panse (NJ), Anita Datar (DC) and Dr. Aditi Sharangpani (MI). They are subject matter experts in various areas like research, policy, partnerships and service delivery for humanitarian aid. Maneesha Kelkar who was the keynote speaker at our fund raising event in 2012, has graciously consented to be the moderator. Another attraction of this event is a Marathi Play "Yaksh Prashna" and a group of talented artists from Atlanta will present this play. As usual, this will be followed by dinner. Please join us in big numbers.

Foundation has received many project proposals for funding during this year also and projects committee has reviewed these project proposals. We will present selected projects at the fund raising event. I ask your support in donations to make these projects successful.

India's Prime Minister will be visiting US and a grand welcome is being planned for him in New York City. I registered Maharashtra Foundation as a "Welcoming Partner Organization" and as a result many members of Maharashtra Foundation will be attending his address at Madison Square Garden. We are looking forward to this big event which will mark a new, deeper and better relationship between the two countries we love, at this critical time when the entire world is facing the greatest threat to the peace and humanity.

I will see you all at the fund raising event on November 8th. For those not residing in NY/NJ area, I would request them to send their donations in time so that we can achieve our fund raising goals. Thank you.

- **Shaila Vidwans** (President, Maharashtra Foundation)

Maharashtra Foundation Fund Raising Event – Nov., 8, 2014

A panel discussion “Social Impact Redefined: How the Next Generation is Driving Change”

Introduction of the participants

Moderator for the discussion-

Maneesha Kelkar:



Maneesha Kelkar is an activist, advocate, educator and trainer, specializing in capacity building, public policy and research in the areas of Gender based violence, Reproductive justice and Immigration. She is the former Executive Director of Manavi, the pioneering South Asian women's rights organization in the US committed to ending violence against women. Prior to that, she has worked for corporations, taught Economics and consulted for the World Bank. Maneesha

has been a Fellow of the Women's Policy Institute of the Women's Fund of New Jersey. She has served on several statewide committees, most recently on the NJ Governor's Commission on New Americans. Maneesha has spoken on Gender based violence at Universities, Conferences, the World Bank, UNIFEM as well as the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She has testified at events from Blue Ribbon panels to Appropriations Hearings on Capitol Hill. She has been on the Faculty of the Advocacy Learning Center, an ongoing nationwide training institute at Praxis International, Minnesota, since its inception in 2009.

Maneesha graduated with a Master's degree in Economic Development from American University, Washington, D.C. She is currently the Development Director at Women Aware, an anti-domestic violence organization in NJ.

The Panelists for the discussion:

Dr. Aditi Sharangpani (MI)



Dr. Aditi Sharangpani has been going on volunteer medical trips for the past ten years. Her work overseas has ranged from teaching medical residents and developing local acute and critical care capabilities in Eritrea, to providing direct patient care as part of disaster relief in Haiti and as ongoing health maintenance for school-children with the Maharashtra Foundation Harali Health Camps. Dr. Sharangpani strongly believes that medical

volunteer trips should include education and development of local capabilities. Here in the United States, she is a full time Pediatric Intensive Care physician in a teaching hospital in Lansing, Michigan.

She particularly enjoys working with residents and hopes that involving them in medical volunteering early in training will encourage them to continue participating during their careers.

Anita Datar, MPA, MPH

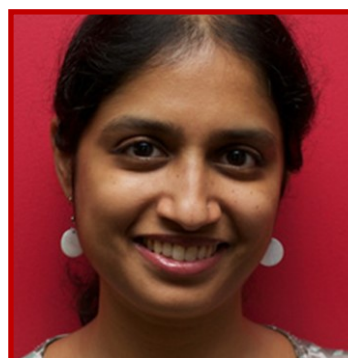
Senior Policy Analyst, Futures Group



Anita Datar (DC) is a Senior Policy Analyst who joined Futures Group in 2004. She has more than twelve years of experience working in global health and international development including HIV program design and implementation, strategic planning, facilitation, training, quantitative and qualitative research, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), geographic and health

information systems (GIS/HIS), strategic information (SI), project and knowledge management. She completed her Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Health from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and School of Public Health, respectively, and is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Senegal. She speaks French and Marathi.

Shuma Panse ,MPH



Shuma Panse (NJ), has over 15 years of experience in public health program design and implementation, public-private partnership development, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and health advocacy. During her seven-year tenure at GBCHealth, she has held a variety of program and managerial roles aimed at

increasing the role of the business sector to improve global health outcomes. In this capacity, she has advised over 50 companies across 10+ industries in health issues areas like HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria prevention and maternal and child health promotion. Her prior work experiences include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Peace Corps, health departments in New York City, Massachusetts and Louisiana and several community-based organizations. She has worked in over 15 countries, including long-term assignments in

MF Maharashtra Foundation

Annual Fund Raising Event 8th November 2014 at 2:00 PM

Grover Middle School of West Windsor-Plainsboro Schools, New Jersey
A panel discussion

"Social Impact Redefined: How the Next Generation is Driving Change"

Panelists: Dr. Aditi Sharangpani

Shuma Panse

Anita Datar

Moderator: Maneesha Kelkar

Vinayak and Sunanda, a well-to-do couple... Their all-rounder son Vikram . . .

Vikram's fiancée Dr. Priya.... And then Vikram's sudden decision . . .

Refresh the Karma Yoga and Bhakti Yoga teachings . . .

Come and see what happens next as the play unfolds. . .

A gripping Marathi play by Atlanta artists



\$40 Panel Discussion and play; \$60 Panel Discussion, Play and Dinner

“Yaksh Prashna” – A Marathi play by Atlanta Artists

About Kalaa Sanwaad:

It is a group of artists from Atlanta presenting the play Yaksh Prashna. Script writer is Chandan Gokhale and this is the first ever play written by him. It was very well received in the Atlanta performance in March 2014.

Director Rajesh Joshi is a well-known director for Marathi plays in Atlanta. He has directed and performed in the many plays with the local artists. Some of the plays are:

'Rutuchakra', 'Blind Game', 'Char Choughi', 'Nawe Gokul' (Kids natak written by P.L. Deshpande), 'Yaksha Prashna', 'Aai Retire Hotey' and 'Case No.9'.

Rajesh also coordinated 'Gandha Marathi Maticha' and 'Maay Marathi Te My Marathi' for Maharashtra Mandal of Atlanta.

About the Artists:

Artists of the play are all amateur artists doing their professional jobs. They are:

Anand Date, Ashish Chaudhari, Medha Patkar, Meenal Gadre, Sonal Mirajkar & Chandan Gokhale

The play “Yaksha Prashna” ...

Vinayak and Sunanda, a well-to-do couple is proud of the achievements of their all-rounder son, Vikram. Coming close to retirement, they have standard expectations about Vikram to take charge of the flourishing business and getting married to his fiancée, Dr. Priya..... Suddenly, Vikram's one decision changes the direction of their life. The play unfolds and grips on you giving a wow factor in the end. It also refreshes you the Karma Yoga and Bhakti Yoga teachings from Bhagvadgeeta.



Maharashtra Foundation - Pledge Card 2014

☐ Announce ☐ Anonymous

Donor Details:

Name(s): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Form of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Pledge

☐ Matching from: _____

Please make check payable to: **Maharashtra Foundation**

Please mail the check and pledge card to:

Maharashtra Foundation

PO Box 2287,

Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

Federal Tax I.D.# 22-2213611

United Way Agency Code: 011675

Maharashtra Foundation is a registered non-profit charitable organization tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of I.R.S. code

Please fill out and send a pledge form with your donation since our auditor requires it to complete yearly financial audit.

Donation Details:

A.Membership&Other	Amount	Number	Total
Benefactor	\$		\$
Patron	\$		\$
Life	\$		\$
Annual	\$		\$
General Funds	\$		\$
B. MF Projects of the Year			
1. Potli Project – Taking education to home by Pragat Shikshan Sanstha			\$
2. Purush Samvad Kendra by Nari Samata Manch			\$
3. Gender sensitization and mentoring of young men: by Men Against Violence & Abuse			\$
4. Rescue, Treatment, Rehabilitation of mentally ill by Shree Amrutvahili Gramvikas Mandal, Ahmednagar			\$
5. Life Skills Education for Children through play by NGO KHEL Planet/Uniq Vikas Sanstha			\$
6. Cervical Cancer Prevention in HIV infected women by NGO PRAYAS			\$
7. Family counselling center project by NGO Adarsh Mahila Gruha Udyog			\$
8. Addressing Gender Based Violence among Youth by NGO HALO Medical Foundation			\$
C. Other Organizations of Your Choice (Name and Address)			
			\$

Total Amount: (A+B+C)

\$

MF List of Donors who donated funds during Jan-Sept 2014

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Acumenz Consulting Inc		Mohana	Dighe	Abhay & Pallavi	Kulkarni	Anirudhdha & Snehal	Patwardhan
Ratnakar & Nalini	Adhav	Mohana & Parag	Dighe	Mahesh	Kulkarni	Meera & Priyadarshan	Phaltankar
Vinit	Adi	Salil & shriya	Diskalkar	Prakash & Pallavi	Kulkarni	Kaumudi Phansalkar	Ashish Shete
Swati	Agane	Anjali	Diwekar-Joshi	Shilpa	Kulkarni	Shailendra & Vrinda	Pitre
Jayesh & Pallavee	Amdekar	Ashwin and Monika	Dixit	Sunandan	Kulkarni	Sameer	Ponkshe
Suhas & Megha	Apte	Aarti	Dixit	Sunil & Dipti	Kulkarni	Girish & Shrad-dha	Pore
Sunanda	Apte-Kakade	Anagha	Donde	Upendra & Swati	Kulkarni	Raghav & Shubha	Pujari
Chandrashekhar & Shraddha	Aranake	Vikas & Kalyani	Gaddu	Vidyadhar & Radhika	Kulkarni	Subhash & Vasanti	Puranik
Samir & Vaibhavi	Arekar	Sanjay R.	Gadkari	Vijay & Chhaya	Kulkarni	Hitha	Rajesh
Gowthami	Arepally	Rakesh	Gadre	Vinata	Kulkarni	Neela & Ashok	Ranade
Jai & Varshal	Arun	Lalita & Sharad	Gandhbhir	Amit	Kulkarni	Nivedita	Ranade
Rajendra	Athaavale	Avinash & Vandana	Ghanekar	Arti	Kunte	Samir & Sheena	Ranade
Sameer	Awsare	Suhas & Gauri	Ghatge	Hemant & Radhika	Kurande	Vinayak & Meghana	Ranade
Milind	Bagade	Devendra & Leena	Ghatpande	Milind	Kute	Arvind & Sunanda	Ranadive
Sayam & Sanjana	Bagade	Manisha	Ghodke	Jayashree & Atul	Laddu	Sangini	Rane
Usha	Bajpai	Milind & Prateeksha	Girkar	Anand	Lagoo	Neelesh & Sharvari	Rangnekar
Ramesh & Neela	Bakane	GKRIS Service Inc		Pradeep & Anjali	Limaye	Prachee & Ashish Udas	Ranjangaonkar
Pushkar	Bapat	Chaitanya	Godbole	Antoinette	Maclachlan	Vedvyas & Vrushali	Rao
Vijaya	Bapat	Vibha	Gode	Jai & Kedar	Mahadeswar	Ravi	Ramaswamy
Asha and Justin	Belarski	Madhu & Sunita	Godsay	Amit & Meenal	Mahajan	Vaishali	Rawtoo
Shirish	Bhadsawle	Shrikant & Sunita	Gogate	Ravindra	Mahajani	Rahul	Rege
Sunita & Prashant	Bhairgond	Meghana	Gokhale	Suhas & Alka	Mahendrakar	Sucheta	Ruikar
Sonali	Bhojane	Narendra	Gore	Huma and Na-beel	Manal	Usha & Manohar	Saindane
Anjali & Sanjay	Bhasme	Uday	Gore	Dipti	Manohar	Anil	Salpekar
Suresh & Vijaya	Bhat	Radhika & Shrinivas	Gosavi	Siddharth	Manohar	Uday	Salvi
Amit	Bhave	Jayesh and Ritu	Goyal	Rajendra	Marathe	Suresh & Vidya	Sane
Dattatraya & Kunda	Bhave	Sulabha and Vasant	Hardikar	Nitin & Sang-eeta	Mayur	Manish & Seema	Sarlashkar
Swapna	Bhave	Pushpa & Anant	Honkan	Pushkar & Shalaja	Medhekar	Dilip	Sathe

Note: If your name does not appear on the list above, please send your donation.

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First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Pradnya	Bhise	Vijay	Jagtap	Girish & Gauri	Mhaskar	Pramod	Sathe
Amol	Bhome	Rajendra & Sandhya	Jamadagni	Hrushikesh	Mhaskar	Vaibhav & Pallavi	Sathe
Maruti	Bhorade	Jyotsna & Sudhir	Jambhekar	Mrinal & Dilip	Mirajkar	Mukund & Jayashree	Satwalekar
Awani	Bildikar	Bhishma	Jani	Tushar	Mirajkar	Harsh	Savla
Adheet & Deepali	Bondre	Ben & Sujata	Joseph	Alka	Mokadam	Ashwini & Prashant	Sawant
Rajan and Smita	Chandras	Krishna & Sampada	Joshi	Anita	Morris	Aniket Patil	Urmila Shelke
Prakash & Dipti	Chavan	Shivangi	Joshi	Swati	Muley	Madhav & Namrata	Shidhaye
Satish & Reena	Chavan	Shreyas & Manisha	Joshi	Arvind & Rajani	Nadkarni	Neeraj & Dipali	Shikarkhane
Mrinalini	Chavan	Joshi Technologies JTI		Vibha	Naik	Manoj & Vaishali	Shinde
Anjaneya	Chimalakonda	Neeta and Prashant	Juvekar	Ravi	Navare	Shailesh & Pallavi	Shirolkar
Vidhyadhar	Chitale	Suhas & Ujwala	Juvekar	Sham & Aruna	Navathe	Sangeeta	Singh
Suresh & Shobha	Chitnis	K. C.	Shekhar	Nivedita & Atul	Nerkar	Mahesh and Kajal	Sinkar
Tushar	Dabhade	Nishikant & Tanuja	Kadam	Laxmikant	Nigalye	Sheela & Dr. Ramesh	Sogal
Avinash & Suchita	Dabholkar	Manish & Archana	Kakade	Kiran & Shilpa	Nimkar	Sachin & Swati	Solkhan
Vinayak	Damle	Suhas	Kakde	Prarthana	Padbidri	Anjali	Soman
Satish & Seema	Damle	Anil	Kale	Sharad & Alka	Palekar	Sachin & Vrushali	Shringarpure
Vijaykumar & Vidya	Damle	Anubhav	Kale	Charudatta & Janhavi	Panajkar	Sachin & Ashwini	Subhedar
Vinod	Damle	Milind and Shaila	Kale	Sumit & Shilpa	Pandey	Sagar & Varsha	Surana
Swapna & Chandras	Dani	Anagha	Kalvade	Abhay & Sula-bha	Paranjape	Balkrishna & Pradnya	Tambe
Yogini & Mandar	Dasture	Suresh & Durga	Kamat	Prasad & Arati	Paranjape	Aparna & Pushkar	Tamhane
Anand & Kashmira	Date	Nilesh	Kardekar	Santosh and Radhika	Parmanand	Taurya LLC	
Kedar	Deo	Vishali	Karnik	Vinayak & Girija	Parvate	Vijay & Sudha	Tendulkar
Niranjan & Vinita	Deo	Madhav & Veena	katdare	Sangita & Prashant	Patankar	Atul & Manisha	Tharval
Rajiv V. & Neelam	Deodhar	Nitin & Manisha	Khadse	Patel Brothers	Patel Brothers	Aniruddha & Rupali	Ullal
Subash & Sumitra	Deodhar	Keshav & Manisha	Kode	Suhas & Alka	Pai	Vindali	Vartak
Sudarshan & Neeta	Desai	Milind & Nandini	Kogekar	Anil & Aruna	Patil	Pradeep and Snehal	Vaze
Samita	Deshpande	Gopal & Shubhangi	Koratana	Bipin	Patil	Shaila & Ashok	Vidwans
Shekhar & Seema	Deshpande	Milind & Jui	Kshirsagar	Pallavi	Patil	Udayan & Sheela	Vinod
Vijay & Lalita	Deshpande	Vasudeo & Arundhati	Kshirsagar	Shailesh & Medha	Patkar	Promod & Sonali	Waingankar
Atul & Sangeeta	Deval	Rajan & Komal	Kubal	Amol & Pallavee	Patwardhan		

Note: If your name does not appear on the list above, please send your donation.

List of NGOs during Jan-Sept 2014

NGO ID	NGO Name
2	Abalashram, Bangalore (2)
9	Andhashradhha Nirmulan Samiti Maharashtra (9)
30	Community Aid & Sponsorship Program (CASP) (30)
43	Halo Medical Foundation (43)
46	Helpers of the Handicapped (46)
54	Jagruti Seva Sanstha (54)
59	Jnana Prabodhini, Pune (59)
60	Jnana Prabodhini- Solapur (Harali) (60)
77	Maharogi Sewa Samiti- Warora (77)
111	Patients Relief Association, Solapur (111)
115	Pragat Shikshan Sanstha (115)
116	Pratham (116)
145	SEARCH (145)
154	SOFOSH (154)
156	Stree Mukti Sanghatana (156)
157	Students Welfare Association, Pune (157)
160	Swadhar IDWC (160)
164	Vanchit Vikas (164)
167	Vasundhara Public Charitable Trust (167)
168	Vatsalya Trust (168)
169	Vidnyan Vahini Project (169)
178	Yusuf Meherally Centre (178)
182	Child Sponsorships (182)
214	Anti Human Trafficking (214)
220	V R Ruia Deaf & Dumb School (220)
232	BMM Inc (232)
237	Membership - Benefactor (237)
241	Save the Children, India (241)
255	Central Society for the Education of the Deaf (The) (255)
259	Sadhana Village (259)
264	Khedker Project (264)

NGO ID	NGO Name
285	Apne Aap Women's Collective (285)
287	Janvikas Pratishthan (287)
294	Adarsh Mahila Gruha Udyog, Latur (294)
297	Aseema Charitable Trust (297)
300	Family Planning Association of India (300)
317	The Society for Door Step School (317)
324	Indian Cancer Society, Solapur (324)
332	Yash Sneha Trust (332)
339	Niramaya Arogya Dham (339)
340	Educate for Life (Hunar Ghar) (340)
343	Marathi Vidnyan Parishad (343)
344	Gram Gaurav Pratishthan (344)
348	Maitri (348)
354	Ushatai Lokhande Charitable Trust (354)
357	Atmaraksha (357)
358	Think Maharashtra (358)
359	Library-in-a-bag (359)
360	Envelop Punching Machine (360)
361	Hearing Aid Project (361)
362	Fight Breast Cancer (362)
363	Janvikas Project (363)
365	Saraswat Vidyarthi Sahayak Mandali (365)
367	Dr Dabholkar Award (367)
369	Wildlife Research and Conservation Society (369)
371	Shree Amrutvahini Gram Vikas (371)
372	Youth Wellness Camp (372)
375	Maharogi Sewa Samiti (375)
376	Fulora Foundation (376)
383	Apala Ghar (383)
384	Devrukh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal (DSPM) (384)
385	PAHAL JAN SAHAYOG VIKAS SANSTHAN (385)
386	DR ANJALI MORRIS EDUCATION AND HEALTH FOUND.
387	Kem Hospital Research Centre (387)

Does Your Company Match Your Charitable Donation? Check the companies below

Abbott Laboratories	C R Bard Foundation	New York Life
Alliance Bernstein	Goldman Sachs	Pfizer
AIG	IAC Foundation	Qualcomm
Avon	J P Morgan Chase	Quest Diagnostics
Andor Capital	Levi Strauss	UBS
Bank of america	Microsoft Giving Campaign	Wells Fargo
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Morgan Stanley	Yahoo

Maharashtra Foundation Projects To be funded in Year - 2015

1. Taking Education to home - Potli Project: NGO Partner Pragat Shikshan Sanstha (10K)

Pragat Shikshan Sanstha (PSS), founded by Dr. Maxine Berntsen is an ongoing intellectual endeavor, attempting to implement the best in educational thought and practice and to carry on a dialogue with researchers on one hand and government officials and general public on the other. In Phaltan it runs a multi-faceted educational program in the under-privileged locality and a Marathi medium innovative school called Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan (KNB).

"Potli project" highlights are early childhood care and education, home education for 0-3 yrs, Early Child Education school for 3-6yrs, support group for 6-12yrs. The project will reach 120 children in 0-3 age group. 6 sakhis will perform the work. (\$10K)

2. Purush Samvad Kendra: NGO Partner Nari Samata Manch (\$8K)

Nari Samata is an autonomous group of women, formed in 1982. They are one of the groups, independent of political parties but believe that empowering women is a political process, and therefore working on the issues arising of subordination of women, also ally with the various class and castes struggles in Maharashtra. They believe in "women and men together for equality" and men always have participated actively in Nari Samata Manch (NSM)

This is extension of 2013 project. It provides counseling services for men. Scope of the project includes training the adolescent trainers (15) and initiate sessions in schools. Conduct workshops for 25 counselors.

3. Gender Sensitization and Mentoring of young men: Men Against Violence & Abuse (MAVA) (3-year project, \$35K - \$12K for first year)

MAVA is the first men's organization in India directly intervening against gender-based violence on women. Established in 1993, MAVA is working towards building a movement that explores the role of men as 'partners' and 'stakeholders' – addressing gender issues (including women's empowerment) through cultural advocacy, direct intervention and youth education initiatives.

In this project, young adult trainers will conduct gender sensitization workshops largely focused on youth between 18-25 years of age. Workshops include interactive sessions, experimental learning and personal dialog, leveraging youth-friendly media e.g. film-screenings, skits, youth "melavas", awareness songs etc. Expected outcomes include - youth talking comfortably about gender and masculinity issues. Project will develop action plans to address issues of gender based violence through networking and tie ups. External monitoring is in place to ensure successful delivery and completion of the program.

4. Rehabilitation of Mentally ill: NGO Partner Shree Amrut Vahini Gramvikas Mandal (3-year project, \$35K, \$10K for first year)

The mission of Shree Amrutvahini Gramvikas Mandal is to help needy people improve their lives in terms of health and

hygiene, food, shelter, education, and employment through awareness and participative social work. They currently provide services to 300 children in three villages of Newasa town. They provide services like quality education, health, nutrition support, recreations and shelter facility to deprived children through Balvikas Kendra.

The patients roam on the streets and are in a dangerous situation of mental state. This project will provide for intervention on the level of identification, counselling treatment and reunion and to some extent rehabilitation of such patients in Ahmednagar city and district. The project will prove to be a catalyst in the union of the abandoned and dislocated patients and parents for their permanent union on human level.

5. Life Skills Education for Children through play: NGO partner Khel Planet/Unique Vikas Sanstha (\$5K)

Khel Planet is a non-profit organization that nurtures life skills in children through play so that they are prepared to succeed in the 21st century" Khel Planet is a not-for-profit venture to teach 21st century life-skills to children through games. Based in India, Khel Planet aims to create a fun, self-motivating environment through board and card games. Key target skills include Creativity, Leadership, Collaboration, Communication, Civic and Ethics. The science rests on that these life skills will prevent poor children from becoming poor adults. Individual products are being created to be sold in market through various distribution channels. Also, workshops are being conducted in schools across India.

"Khel-shaala" project will conduct 30 (thirty) play workshops in low-income schools in Mumbai (over a duration of one year). It is expected to touch lives of more than 300 children and expose them to life skills learning. "Khel-time" project will setup two toy libraries over next 6 months in Mumbai and Satara. These toy libraries would involve creating playful learning spaces for children through teacher champion identification and creating a repository of learning games available in the market. "Khel-journey" will carry out a 'Right to Play' awareness road trip across Maharashtra on a mobile toy library. The mobile bus would travel from village to village for duration of two weeks and conduct play workshops with children."

6. Cervical Cancer Prevention in HIV infected women: NGO partner Prayas (\$10K)

This is a research project. The health group of Prayas has been concentrating on issues of HIV/AIDS and sexuality since 1994. Prayas and HCJMRI in Pune are collaborating on a research study for prevention of cervical cancer in HIV-infected women with guidance and technical support from the International Agency for Research on Cancer of WHO. In this study, they have enrolled 1153 HIV-infected women and the results of the study are published in the journal 'AIDS'. Partial funding for this project will support maintaining one of the largest cohorts of HIV-infected women so that this project can be continued.

7. Family Counselling Center Project: NGO Partner Adarsh Mahila Gruha Udyog (\$10K)

AMGU was established in 1976 with the objective of making women self-reliant. Most of their work is done at the grass-roots level in 152 villages in Latur. They work for the holistic empowerment of women across their entire life span. AMGU offers vocational training and organizes social awareness programs about women's issues, gender sensitization, and adolescence.

Under "Family Counselling Center" project women and girls who are victims of violence will get justice. They will be empowered legally which will reduce the cases of violence and more women will register the cases of sexual harassment instead of hiding and tolerating it. The awareness among adolescents through CDs and DVDs will bring attitudinal change among boys towards girls.

8. Addressing Gender Based Violence by engaging youth in slums: NGO partner HALO Medical Foundation (\$6K)

HALO Medical Foundation (HMF) is the conceptualization of a dream among a group of socially aware medical students and practitioners who wanted to change health perceptions and improve the delivery of basic health services at the grassroots level. It is not just another NGO, but a commitment to create happiness on the face of the villager who had previously been neglected medical services. They provide Medico-social activities in rural and backward areas, medical services to victims in emergency cases, epidemics and accidents. HMF also runs blood banks, pathology labs and ambulance services if necessary.

Project objectives are to understand, sensitize, and motivate youths on gender issues with a focus on gender based violence, to study the determinants of gender based violence and its impact on adolescent and women health, to facilitate a process and enable youths to seek job opportunities and to establish a youth emergency service center to provide emergency support and counseling to victims of gender based violence.

4th Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali (Jan 12-15, 2015)

Maharashtra Foundation (MF) in partnership with Share and Care Foundation will conduct 4th Youth Wellness Camp at Jnana Prabodhini, Harali on January 12-15, 2014. Harali is a village near Solapur in Maharashtra. Approximately 300 students and children of the school and Anagnwadi located in village of Harali will be examined (medical and dental examination) during four days.

MF is looking for Marathi speaking pediatricians, physicians and dentists interested in volunteering four days of their services while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the village. For more information, please contact **Shaila Vidwans (609 273 1408 , email at shaila@vidwans.com).**

What your Membership means to Maharashtra Foundation

As you know, all donors need to become member of Maharashtra Foundation (MF). It is very natural for people to ask the question "What is this and why is it necessary for one to become a member"?

There are two important facets to becoming member of MF. First, it shows your loyalty and continued support to the MF. And secondly, MF is an organization that is founded by people like you who have the desire to help the "not so fortunate" in our country. Foundation supports the organizations, which work at grass root level for the upliftment of the downtrodden. By becoming member, your membership contribution helps MF's Endowment fund to grow. In effect, Foundation becomes financially strong with your membership.

More importantly, it is written in the articles of MF that there are these four types of membership. You can become a Benefactor, a Patron, a Life member or Subscriber member (or Annual member) by contribution \$5000, \$1000, \$500 or \$20 respectively to MF's Endowment Fund. Another benefit is that if you become Benefactor, Patron or Life member, then the 5% administrative charge is waived off from your donation. I am very happy to announce that during January to September 2014, we have enrolled following benefactor, patron and life members. This support means a lot to MF and we are thankful for your support.

Benefactor Member:

Upendra & Swati Kulkarni

Patron Membership :

Balkrishna & Pradnya Tambe
Abhay & Sulabha Paranjape

Life members:

Suresh & Vijaya Bhat
Dattatraya & Kunda Bhav
Maruti Bhorade
Kedar Deo
Pushpa & Anant Honkan
Madhav & Veena katdare
Nitin & Manisha Khadse
Hemant & Radhika Kurande
Sahas & Alka Mahendrakar
Anita Morris
Sham & Aruna Navathe
Ravi Navare
Kiran & Shilpa Nimkar
Bipin Patil
Usha & Manohar Saindane
Pramod Sathe
Promod & Sonali Waingankar

Go Green with your next copy of MF Newsletter

If you have not done so far, please sign up for email delivery of future issues of the Maharashtra Foundation's (MF) newsletter. Go Green and help MF in implementing cost effective, quick communication tools and technology of today. Please send your email to: Email: secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org

Report of MF Fundraising Event in Cary, NC

A group of young and energetic women in Research Triangle (Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Durham) area came together and performed the famous street play from the 1980s—Mulgi Jhali Ho on September 13, 2014 at the Cary Theatre. The play was originally written by Jyoti Mhapsekar of Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS) who was also a guest speaker in Maharashtra Foundation annual fundraiser in 2011.



This event was organized as a fundraiser for Stree Mukti Sanghatana by the “Sakhi Group”. This group comprised of the participants of the play viz. Radhika Gosavi, Ujjwala Kute, Asmita Ponkshe, Deepa Bhadsavle, Deepali Bondre, Swarada Hardikar, Yogini Dasture, Seema Sarlashkar, Deepa Kardekar, Dipti Damle, Rupali Ullal, Jai Mahadeshwar et al. The play was directed by Vaibhavi Arekar. The play had live music support by Krishna Joshi (Dholki), Sampada Joshi (Harmonium) and Tejas Kakde (Tabla). The artists gave a superb performance. A few scenes touched the hearts of the audience and brought tears in their eyes.



The event was attended by 175 people out of which about 74 people came forward to chip in as donors. Maharashtra Foundation president, Shaila Vidwans was the chief guest of the event and Vaibhav Sathe, MF BoD member conducted the fundraiser. We could raise about \$10,000 in donations, pledges and ticket sales. For the first ever fundraiser in Cary, NC; this was a major achievement. Kudos to the Sakhi Group that not only gave their time, but also donated a yeoman's share in the funds raised. The tremendous amount of efforts and hard practice sessions put by the Sakhi Group clearly visible. Thanks to all the artists and behind the stage participants that helped to make this event a major success.

After the Atlanta fundraiser, this was another outreach event for Maharashtra Foundation and we plan to do more such events in other states. Anyone interested in organizing a fundraiser of this play in their city can contact Vaibhav Sathe at vasathe@me.com

- Vaibhav Sathe, Suwanee, GA (Maharashtra Foundation Director-Public Relations)

Youth Volunteering Experience

Walking down a busy commercial street in the blinding afternoon sun, I took a left turn into a small alley and suddenly the world around me changed. The ground beneath me went from a nicely paved road to a damp dirt path spotted with paper and shards of glass bottles. A small child played with a ball he picked up from a muddy puddle, right next to the flock of hens. I walked past the small homes made of metal sheets and finally entered the abhyasika (study center).

A male volunteer from the vasti (in India) helped me go to the girl's houses and gather them in the abhyasika. Some girls were kept in the house to help with household chores or taking care of siblings, but we were able to round up a group of 10 girls ages 8-16. We sat in a circle and introduced ourselves, played some games, and chatted about school, their families, and hobbies. The younger girls were so outgoing and eager to share, but the older ones less so.

The next session I explained that I was going to be teaching them martial arts for the next few weeks. We were going over the basics like what is self-defense, strong and weak points of the body, and why we yell while defending ourselves. I explained the technical/physical benefits of yelling while doing techniques, but the most important is so that you can alert others that you need help. I said, "If you yell someone will hear you and come to help." The 14 year old girl standing next to me looked straight at me, shook her head and said with big, hurt eyes, "But didi, they don't come to help." From that point, I realized that my purpose here was more than just teaching the girls how to protect themselves physically.



Our hour long sessions began with stretching while discussing how each girl's day was. Next we worked on the self-defense techniques. Rather than teaching exactly by the book, I presented a situation, taught the appropriate self-defense, and had the girls practice in pairs and demonstrate in front of the whole group.

I would ask them, for example, imagine you're walking on the street back from school to home and a man comes and grabs your wrist, what do you do? Using this example we would work through various techniques that the girls could use in everyday situations.



Every technique we would do, I told them to imagine someone who has hurt you or something that makes you angry. I would let the girls do the punches, kicks, and defense combinations on me with all their force. The fire I saw in their eyes was unforgettable, and I kept it as my goal to see that fierce confidence in the girls all the time.

Before I started going to teach at the vasti, all I was told is that the girls are living in a very unsafe environment to the point that they are not safe in their own homes. As the days went by, the girls began opening up and using our sessions as a platform to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with me. I learned about their inconsistent attendance in school due to opposition from their parents and eventually leading to early dropout rates and marriage. Due to the sporadic water system, sometimes the girls had to miss our sessions to fill water for their homes. I also quickly realized that their level of knowledge about personal health and hygiene was terribly low.

These issues were beyond my scope, but over a span of 4 weeks I was able to guide the girls to develop some other characteristics. Practicing self-defense not only taught them how to physically protect themselves, but also mental strength. The quick boost in their self-esteem improved their communication skills and gave them the power to believe in themselves and their abilities.

Self defense is just one type of education for these girls, imagine if you had the opportunity to provide even more education and empower?

- **Amruta Houde** (Graduate degree student, Boston, MA)

"It is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich."

TO:

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