



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>

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Lead- Founder Member:

(Late) Mr. Yeshwant Kanitkar

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Inside this issue:

Report on

Annual Fundraiser 2

MF award ceremony 3

Harali camp report 4

Report on Padayatra 5-6

Upcoming fundraisers 7-8

Connecticut fundraiser 9

MF and BMM initiative 10-11

NAMASKAR

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you. I hope that all of you have made New Year resolutions, that include donating generously to Maharashtra Foundation.

Last year 2015, was a banner year for us, through your generosity we collected over \$550,000. This is a record. We held three major Fundraising events, in New Jersey, Connecticut and Pittsburgh, PA. The New Jersey event was a great success with Dr. Mohan Agashe as the Chief Speaker, his speech was extremely enlightening and an eye opener to many in the audience. We also had a panel discussion of our donors on the subject of "Why Philanthropy and Why Maharashtra Foundation" The discussion was moderated by Dr. Agashe. The panel discussion was very engaging and a great success. There was an entertainment program by Mr. Ravi Datar and Ms. Samidha Joglekar. This program was very well received by the audience and every song received huge applause from the audience. Delicious Appetizers and a fabulous dinner was also served. We raised over \$140,000 on that day for various causes. The Fund raising event in Connecticut was managed by local well-wishers of the foundation and they raised money for the "Nepal earthquake relief". The fund raising event in Pittsburgh, PA. also conducted by local well-wishers of the foundation raised money for "Stree Mukti Sangathana".

This year we teamed with major organizations to raise money for specific causes. Considering the plight of farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada we joined hands with BMM to raise money for the farmers in this area. BMM encouraged each of its member Mandals to donate money from the collection at "Ganpati" for this cause. The money was earmarked for distribution through:

Save India Farmers – To educate women of farmers who have committed suicide to be self-sufficient.

MF sponsored "Padyatra" – To increase awareness of available resources and to formulate a Permanent Solution for the problem of Drought in this area.

NAAM – A organization in India which is helping farmers and their families.

We also raised money for the "Earthquake Relief in Nepal". With the help of local Nepalese organizations, we have undertaken the task of rebuilding a school for approximately 800 students in Nepal.

I hope you will continue your support of the Foundation in 2016 and see you at one of the Fund raising events.

Shirish Gupte.

Report on Annual Fundraiser Event, New Jersey October 26, 2015



I will remember the recent MF function on Oct 24th, if nothing else, for its exuberance and positive attitude. It was noticeable even on the smiling faces of the volunteers as they guided you to coat closets or Coffee/Tea table. But, the opening speech by the incoming president, Shirish Gupte, really set the tone. I have known him for many years. But, never realized that under his congenial exterior, he was such a dynamic motivational speaker. As he introduced members of his team, I was struck by their younger age (by my standard!!). For a moment I thought that MF had transformed into some sort of youth movement! Young people are notorious for breaking from traditions. In the past, MF usually took up laudable projects and worked with local NGOs to help implement them. Instead, past year, they took up seed projects to see how an idea will actually work and then approach local leaders to implement it on wider scale. (Samkaleen Prakashan: Inspirational Books for Rural Schools The success seems to have energized the whole team as one speaker after another enthusiastically described the success of their seed projects. It's success was admirable. In recent years, MF has been successful in getting good speakers. This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Mohan Agashe, was no exception. He talked about "social change – need

and process".

My first reaction upon hearing the topic was that "get ready for a high-sounding wise talk". But, I grossly underestimated his understanding of human nature (as a Psychiatrist) and verbal skills (as a skillful actor). It was a skillful talk that made the topic very accessible. His skills were also visible when he interviewed three of the big (\$500K+) donors: Anil Deshpande, Sunil Deshmukh and Atul Tulshibagwale. Instead of throwing the usual soft Ball questions, Dr. Agashe led them to open up and speak about their inner drives behind the charity. I especially was impressed with Mr. Tulshibagwale.

Second (better) half of the program was delicious dinner and melodious music rendered by (again relatively young) Canadian artists, Samidha Joglekar and Ravi Datar. I like food of almost any kind. But, even the knowledgeable ("चोखंदळ") people praised it. As for the singers, I am biased towards Ms. Joglekar. So I won't comment further.

All in all, it was a very well arranged "inviting" function, and it rightfully grossed one of the largest donations (In excess of \$140,000).

Sharad Sathe.

SAVE THE DATE

MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION NJ FUNDRAISING EVENT NOVEMBER 19, 2016

Ukrainian Cultural Center, CARTARET NJ

Entertainment, Thought provoking speeches & dialogue, and Of-course

Sumptuous Appetizer & Dinner.

Report on MF Social Service and Literature Award Ceremony

MF Social Service Awards and Literature Awards ceremony took place on 9th January 2016 at Balgandharv Rangmandir, Pune. Five awardees from progressive literature and five awardees from social service field were felicitated. The speeches by the recipients were held from 2-4 PM and the award ceremony started at 5:30PM. Uday Prakash, a [Hindi poet](#), scholar, [journalist](#), [translator](#), and [short story](#) writer was the keynote speaker. He has received several awards for his collection of short stories "Mohan Das". Vinod Shirsat of Sadhana Trust and his team worked very hard to put together a fabulous event. **Social Service Awards— Vidyatai Bal** was awarded the Lifetime achievement award. She has been a social activist particularly in the area of equalization of the social status of women vis-à-vis men in India. **Uttam Kamble** was the recipient of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar award. He is a journalist and was the [Chief Editor](#) of [Sakal Media Group](#). He was the President of 84th [Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan](#). **Asanghatit Kashtakari--Pallavi Renake** - She has put in tremendous work among the nomadic tribes (Bhatakya Vimukt). This is because of the need to be the advocate for the nomadic people with the Govt. and other sources. **Samajik Prashna--- Krishna Chandgude** - Krishna works on the most pressing problem of Caste Councils (Jaat Panchayat) that are extra judicial bodies which impose harsh punishment including torture and death on women for crossing the boundaries and bondage of the caste culture. Krishna has taken over the work started by Dr. Dabholkar and made tremendous stride at a risk even of his own life. **Special Category Samaj Prabodhan - Bhim Raskar** - Bhim Raskar is another dedicated worker on women's empowerment. His reach and depth in changing the entrenched mindset of women and the society is extra ordinary. Involvement of men in such work is essential. **Lifetime Achievement award - Suresh Dwadashiwar** - He has been in the field of literature for over 50 years. He taught political science and was the President of Vidarbha Sahitya



Sangh for many years. He was also the President of Akheel Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Maha Mandal for 5 years, and President of State Literature and Culture Council for 1 year. **Vishesh Granth Award – Sharad Bedekar for “Samagra Nireeshwarwad”** : Sharad Bedekar has written books on Niereshwarwad. During 2015, he published a series of articles in Manav Vijay in Lokasatta. **Aparamparik Granth award – Nitin Dadarawala for “Pratima-Prachiti”**. Nitin Dadarawala is an artist. His statement on his website reads – “In the last few years, I have been reading the Zen school of philosophy which emphasizes the actuality or the "realness" of daily life. **Lalit Granth – Ravindra Rukmini Pandharinath for “Khelghar”** : Ravindra Rukmini Pandharinath is Hon. Director of Dharamitra, a NGO, based in Wardha, Maharashtra, working for sustainable agriculture and rural development. He is an activist / researcher who has significantly contributed to the nation-wide campaign against sex-selective elimination of females and in drafting of policies and legislations on this issue. **R.S. Datar Naatya Purskar – Ajit Deshmukh for “SussaT”**. Mumbai Theatre Guide write about SussaT “Soak in the electrified atmosphere of a railway platform with chattering passengers awaiting their turn, vendors selling their wares and railway staff going about their work. When a middle aged man travels by train with his wife, he encounters situations that can be comic and hilarious.”.

Shaila Vidwans.

Harali Health Camp - An Experience and Enrichment : January 11 - 13 , 2016

MF has been conducting a medical camp at Harali and surrounding villages, the area that was devastated during a major earthquake in the early nineties. We could see rejuvenation and vitality of those villages, thanks to the rehabilitation work of government and NGO's organizations, donations from all over India and abroad and also the die hard spirit of the villagers. We salute this spirit of humanity and strength. We are proud that MF was able to contribute in this fruitful task. This year the camp was held from January 11th through the 13th 2016. Six volunteers including three doctors left on the tenth of January from Pune to Solapur. We were warmly welcomed by the Probhodhani staff and were provided with comfortable accommodations. After a nice dinner, we were joined by other nurses and volunteers for a well conducted meeting hosted by Dr. Swarnalata Bhishikar. The local volunteers who joined us were Prachi Tai and her daughter and Dr. Manasee, a resident doctor from Pune. Our host was Jui Kemkar with skills in hospitality and management. Our team of pediatricians and volunteers was complemented with local specialists in Oby- Gyn and women diseases.

We focused our examinations on general health, growth and development and immunizations . In addition to this screening for hernias, heart and orthopedic deformities were ruled out appropriately. Quite a few children needed pair of eye glasses with optometrist evaluations while some were refereed to ophthalmologist . We also saw some children with heart murmurs and disabilities of back and limbs and a few chronic diseases. These children were refereed to specialist like pediatric cardiologist and orthopedic surgeons and others . Dental care is the major problem everywhere and these children were refereed to dentist at Harali clinic where dental chair and equipment was donated by Maharashtra foundation . Among-st women the specialist noted iron deficiency , anemia , back ache , abdominal pain , menstrual complaints and generally poor nutrition. Overall we



are happy to note that children in rural under developed areas are also getting healthier and have routine immunizations through primary health centers run by state government. Women are also getting better care through these centers by trained local dai's , doctor and specialist care and c section facilities available near by for needy pregnant women . These three days provided all of us from United States an excellent opportunity to volunteer in rural India , know first hand about the life in the villages, school systems, health care and overall social structure. The common man in India is getting knowledgeable , savvy and demanding more from leaders, law makers , government agencies , institutions and they in turn are reaching masses . We are thankful to Maharashtra foundation USA and Jnana Prabhodhini for this experience . We must make a special mention for the excellent leadership of Mrs . Shaila Vidwans and everyone who made this camp a success. Thanks are also due to Sheela Laungani for the updates and information along with the pictures about this camp . At this juncture I suggest that in future other areas of Maharshttra can be explored for such health projects . Also a little more funds if available for eye glasses, minor orthopedic equipment and minor surgical intervention will go a long way in improving care and empowering people .Continuous efforts are needed to attract youth from USA to participate in such activities and enrich their experience about their parents motherland .

Dr. Suresh Talathi.

Report on Shetkari Wachawa Padayatra



Maharashtra Foundation US with its local affiliates has begun its unique effort called **Shetkari Wachawa Padayatra**. It is lead by youth in Parbhani and Beed districts of Maharashtra and guided by Harsha Purandare, Advisor to the Executive Committee of Maharashtra Foundation.

Background:

Maharashtra Foundation believes in finding holistic solutions to the age old problems instead of the temporary aid type band aid approach. Farmers' suicides in the drought stricken parts of Maharashtra over the past decade is an acute problem that persists in spite of some government and private sector aid to the farmers and their widows. MF thus wants to identify the root causes of this problem and find a permanent solution that involves mustering different resources, organizations and capital sources for a targeted and coordinated action the serious problem of the farmers' suicides. Avoiding the temptation of just sending some money over and congratulating ourselves for doing something about the problem, MF has undertaken the difficult task of analyzing the ground reality to find permanent solutions. Padayatra---a fact finding mission that also identifies the root causes of the problem and possible solutions was a brainchild of MF Advisor Harsha Purandare. He is from IIT Mumbai and left his promising management career to dedicate his life to social work. He is a ASHA Fellow, founding partner in ASHOKA fellowship Project, a rare and high honor for young social workers from the entire Asia. Implementing novel, IT based solutions for age old problems is Harsha's

expertise. He coordinated MF's One Village, One Computer [1V1C] project for 5 years.

Padayatra:

Harsha has connected MF with local partner organization on the ground and youth groups who have spearheaded the logistics and visits under Harsha's guidance. Harsha personally spent two months in the drought affected areas to lead the Padayatra efforts for MF and the coordination between the local organizations and MF. Once the solution and the plan for implementation is developed, we will involve other organizations and resources for a coordinated action and implementation.

What is happening in rural Maharashtra?



Maharashtra has been facing ever deepening agrarian crisis in the past few years, which is crushing the agrarian economy. To worsen the situation, Global Warming and El Nino effect have cut the monsoon rains to half this year. We are witnessing rise in number of Farmers' Suicides this year. Padayatra is trying to counter this socially escalated problem of Farmer's suicide through Holistic approach, rather than giving small help to families here and there.

Report on Shetkari Wachawa Padayatra

What is Padayatra?

The farmer youth groups are walking across the villages conducting meetings (Gram Sabhas) with farmers, discussing debt and suicide issue openly, assuring them 'you are not alone'. Communicating that we will struggle together and find the way. Family debt survey is undertaken. Padayatra through its **Jan Dnyaan Kendra** is creating local leadership of youth which creates social support systems. Padayatra group is creating social network with Govt., NGOs, Media, Social Movements, International agencies, Political parties, Experts and celebrities to pull in resources, ideas and workable models from village to village. Padayatra Facebook page has already crossed 7000 + likes and had over 115000 page views.

What Padayatra has found? Padayatra groups have walked across 12 villages so far in Beed, Parbhani and Hingoli. We are targeting 64 drought affected villages at this stage. The farmer debts do range around \$4000 to \$6000, it is mostly a borrowing from private money lender at unscrupulous monthly 5 to 10 per cent lending rates. For very small loans, these rates are weekly. The reasons for private debt are mostly: Investments in farming, health expenses for family member, Dowry for daughter's marriage. Around 4800 out of 6000 families reached in these villages were in private debt. Volunteers discussed issue of farmers' suicide with 2000 farmers in these Gramsabhas. We actually met 14 farmers who in public meetings confessed they were thinking of suicides. We came across 12 recent cases of farmers' suicides and more than 150 struggle stories of debt trapped farmers. All families we met agreed that dowry [Hunda] has gone up in recent years and marriage in family is private money lender's easy opportunity to grab lands.

What is the impact of Padayatra?

All 12 Gram-Sabhas [village meetings] are success in terms of mobilizing farmers for this awakening. Padayatra is creating social resistance to



growing tendency of committing suicide. Padayatra has created team of around 75 young people in these villages. They are willing to act, whenever any action plans come up. They are our potential leaders. We are building a new model of using Internet -Social Media against the issues faced by communities. Local Popularity in Press and Connectivity has been achieved.

Padayatra has created pressure group for stopping drought Migration of rural agricultural laborers by connecting them to Govt. work schemes. Projects over Rs 1 Crore are likely to be implemented by Govt in villages under Padayatra influence. [Even if we at Maharashtra Foundation can not solve the financial issue of farmer debt at this scale, such triggering and tapping of investment for farmers is where we should stretch our leadership.]

Padayatra is trying to address Rural Decline, Farmer's Debt and Farmer Suicide Issue through direct social solutions, which will create platform of economic revival. Padayatra thinkers are working on workable social action plans which are economically viable. The social adoption of such work plans by donors/ social investors around basic needs of water, food, work, fodder, information, agritech-innovation and governance is necessity of this hour.

<https://www.facebook.com/Shetkari-Wachawa-Padayatra-1635094360072374/timeline>

Written by: Harsha Purandare

Edited by : Pallavee Patwardhan. Suwanee, GA

Maharashtra Foundation Sponsored Event (April 10, 2016 1:00—5:00 p.m.)

Theatrix USA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

TWO, GRIPPING ONE ACT PLAYS - ONE HINDI & ONE ENGLISH

**Taconic
Parkway**

WRITER / SUDIPTA BHAWMIK
DIRECTOR / ASHOK VANJARI
MUSIC / NANDKISHOR MULEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / VIKAS PATHAK

ONE ACT 75 MINUTES PLAY

This English play opens with an aging matinee idol from India enjoying the adulation and hospitality of an Indian couple living in New York. As the conversations progress, unexpected cracks open up ... and through these cracks leaps a deep dark secret that is about tearing to all.



WRITER / NADIRA ZAHIR BABBAR
DIRECTOR / ASHOK VANJARI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / SHUBHADA KAMERKAR

ONE ACT 75 MINUTES PLAY

'Ji Jaisi Aapki Marzi' depicts the treatment meted out to women by society, and breaks the silence that has been imposed upon them ... A wonderfully choreographed and deeply meaningful Hindi play.

Sunday April 10th, 2016 @ 1:00pm - 5:00 pm

**VENUE : EASTMONTE CIVIC CENTER
830 MAGNOLIA DRIVE ALTAMONTE SPRING , FLORIDA 32701**

**LINK TO PURCHASE TICKETS <http://eventsdesignedbykish.blogspot.com>
First two rows seats : \$ 50.00 per person next three rows seats, \$35.00 per person
and rest of the seats \$ 25.00 per person**

**DOOR OPENS AT 12:00 PM
CASH BAR AND FOOD IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE SHOW AND AT INTERMISSION**

Children under age 18 will not be permitted
contact for more information and ticket reservation;
Kishor Pathare 321 960 5497 kishorpathare@yahoo.com
Nandkishor Muley 407 924 8373 nandkishormuley@yahoo.com
Vinod Vasudeva 407 687 8466 vinod@manoranjana.net

Sponsored by
MF MAHARASHTRA
FOUNDATION
INC USA

THIS EVENT IS ORGANIZED BY KISHOR PATHARE IN COLLABORATION WITH
ORLANDO MARATHI MANDAL, MANORANJAN RADIO
AND PANDIT NANDKISHORE MULEY

**Maharashtra Foundation Fundraiser in Association with
Maharashtra Mandal of Atlanta (May 8, 2016 : 11:30 am to 6 pm)**



MULGI ZHALI HO...!!!!

A Fundraiser for Stree Mukti Sanghatana

The first one is a well-known musical satire by Mrs. Jyoti Mhapsekar of Stree-Mukti Sanghatana (SMS). This play has been performed almost 3000 times all over Maharashtra to enable women empowerment. This play is brought to you by "Sakhi" Group from the Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina to support <http://streemuktisanghatana.org/>

सई परांजपे लिखित मराठी नाटक

सखवे शेजारी



The second play is a comedy by "Kalasamwaad" team from Atlanta who has brought to you several entertainers in the past few years under the leadership of Rajesh Joshi. This team does not need introduction as they have proven the quality time and again.

Venue: Berkmar high School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA 30047

Light lunch and tea will be served

For tickets, please visit www.maharashtrafoundation.org or

Call Vaibhav Sathe (770)617-2690

Culture for a cause 2015 Help Rebuild Nepal Connecticut Fundraiser , September 20, 2015

Mother earth shook for mere few seconds in Nepal, but rebuilding the lives of affected people is a project that will take a many months. 'Culture For A Cause 2015- Help Rebuild Nepal' was a concept born out of a desire to help those devastated by the recent earthquake, by supporting projects that would have a long lasting impact. The noble thought came to fruition on Sunday, Sept 20, 2015 at the Ives Center of WCSU in Danbury, CT. Bandhan, an enthusiastic volunteer group, and Maharashtra Foundation, A 37-year old organization promoting Economic and Social Justice for all, joined hands and organized a beautiful art concert that brought together gifted Connecticut-based Indian Classical Dance artists. It was a treat for the senses and the soul, an affair extraordinaire.

Aishwarya Chakravarthy's dance troupe kicked off the event with an artful description of Lord Ganesh in a graceful and most pleasing Mohiniattam style of dance. Charu Pandit and her troupe had the audience tapping with their beat and her impeccable facial expressions, gestures together with fluid Bharatanatyam moves poetically narrated insights into emotions of three lovers in her piece Triveni. Anindita Nanda and her senior students presented an intricate dance called Pallavi in Odissi dance style with graceful poses straight from the temple carvings and sculptures of eastern India. The kathak dancers performed a brilliant mix of sensual moves and intricate patterns under the tutelage of Rachna Agrawal, whose own fast, confident and rhythmic footwork galvanized the audience into spontaneous applause more than once. Sarada Nori Akella choreographed Kuchipudi dance-drama depicted stories of childhood naughtiness and youthful pranks of Lord Krishna. The expressions of little Krishna, his mother (played by beautiful Sarada), friends, and villagers, together with English narration reeled in the attention of all young and old alike. The Bharatnatyam performance by Taniya and Puneet

Panda, trained in Vazhuvoor and Kalakshetra style respectively, was mesmerizing. Their steady poses, synchronous moves and the masterful



command of the floor took the audience to a different dimension. Gayatri Rao Mahesh gave apt narration and historic background of the dances that brought dimension and context to the performances. Dignitaries present were Danbury City Council President, Joseph Cove, First Selectman of Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi, President of CT Nepalese community, Sankar Dahal, Maharashtra Foundation representatives, Miss CT Outstanding Teen, Sapna Raghavan, Tribuna Newspaper Editor and Partner, Emanuela Leaf, art lovers and philanthropists, and several-behind-the-scene volunteers from across the state. "It was an extremely well organized event" said one spectator. "A brilliant piece of artwork for a great cause" said another. All the proceeds of the evening will go towards projects in Nepal. Nepalese attendees were especially touched by the camaraderie of their neighboring citizens, helping them from half way around the earth. A good cause, caring hearts, dedicated minds delivered a great event that audience will always remember and all participants will always be proud of. The Bandhan team led by Mangesh Karandikar, Jyoti Kelkar, Sandeep Gandbhir and Deepali Pawar plan to host more cultural events to support different causes in the coming years.

Bandhan Team

A Report on Maharashtra Foundation and Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal's Joint Initiative to support NAAM and Save Indian Farmers

The issue about farmers' suicides is now known to most of the people due to sufficient media coverage in 2015. Initially the issue did not get much of an attention it deserved; however this issue was brought to the mainstream by the outstanding efforts by well known Marathi actor, Nana Patekar. Nana went to many of the districts in Marathwada and Vidharbha districts in Maharashtra and helped the families of the farmers that committed suicide due to the prolonged drought and compounding debts. Later, Nana and another well known actor, Makarand Anaspure formed NAAM Foundation to address the issues of the farmers at a larger scale. Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal President, Niteen Joshi and his executive committee wanted to think out-of-the box and help the drought issue in Maharashtra. BMM joined hands with Maharashtra Foundation due to the reputation MF has already created over the past 38 years to send the money to the recipient NGOs with the least overhead costs. BMM and MF made an appeal in Q4' 2015 to all the member Maharashtra Mandals (MM) to support NAAM and other initiatives supporting farmers. This appeal got a tremendous response from several Maharashtra Mandals in the USA. The net amount collected is almost \$48,000. The MMs that helped this initiative are:

- Maharashtra Mandal of Atlanta
- Austin Marathi Mandal
- Maharashtra Mandal of Chicago
- Tennessee Marathi Mandal
- Phoenix Metro Maharashtra Mandal
- Los Angeles Maharashtra Mandal
- Wichita Maharashtra Mandal
- Marathi Mandal Sacramento
- New England
- Baltimore Marathi Mandal
- Colorado Marathi Mandal
- Houston Marathi Mandal
- Detroit Marathi Mandal

- Maharashtra Mandal Columbus and
- **Seattle Maharashtra Mandal**

Thanks to all the MMs supporting this initiative. **Seattle Maharashtra Mandal** deserves kudos for the exceptional efforts as they generated \$33,281 out of the total funds raised. Special thanks to President, Rama Herwadkar, BMM Treasurer Mohit Chitnis and Jayant Bhopatkar who were instrumental in making an exemplary presentation to the SMM members and generating large donation for the worthy cause.

Save Indian Farmers (SIF) is another US based organization being supported by Maharashtra Foundation in 2016 that is working closely with Deendayal Trust in Vidarbha. SIF has a project named "Adopt-a-widow" SIF has helped 81 widows of farmers that have committed suicide. There is a saying, "*Give someone a fish and you have fed him for today; Teach someone to fish and you have fed him for a lifetime*". SIF is helping the widows of the farmers by helping them start a business such as goat grazing, noodle making, sewing, cow grazing etc. MF's earmarked donation of \$10,000 will help about 18 to 20 windows to be self sustained in the future. Donors can support Adopt-a-widow project to help more widows. \$500 can help a widow to be self sustained in life.



Statistical data shows that over 60,000 farmers have committed suicides in the past decade and out of which 70% of the suicides are from the 11 districts in Vidarbha. SIF has volunteers working at grass-root level that have hundreds of widows in the 11 districts. There is another project named "Dal Mill Project" that was undertaken by SIF for empowerment of rural women in the drought affected village named Sahkheda in the district of Yavatmal. The Dal Mill project will start by empowering 15 women to process the pulses crop to a final polished product. The project has a



budget of \$20,000.

While SIF had about \$4,000 to support kick-starting the project, there was a deficit of \$16,000. **Seattle Maharashtra Mandal** decided to donate 50% of their collection made for the Farmers' projects to SIF making the Dal Mill project a reality in 2016.

Dr. Hemant Joshi, Secretary of SIF has provided the detailed project presentation and the quarterly updates will be monitored by Maharashtra Foundation team. Maharashtra Foundation will continue to work with BMM in spreading awareness about such efforts and organize fundraisers to support the projects that are being received by Maharashtra Foundation.

Vaibhav Sathe, Suwanee, GA

Congratulations to Jyoti Mhapsekar

President Pranab Mukharjee on March 8th 2016 presented Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2015 on the occasion of International Women's Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards are annually given by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to institutions and individuals who have made exceptional contributions towards empowerment of women. This award was received this year by Jyoti Mhapsekar, the founding member of Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS)



SMS had been a long time "family" member of Maharashtra Foundation and year after year, MF has supported SMS by arranging fundraisers in several cities.

Jyoti Mhapsekar is well known for the street play "Mulgi Jhali Ho" that has been performed over 3000 times. Jyoti has written numerous plays on women's issues, children's education, child labor, Waste management and the environment.

Maharashtra Foundation congratulates Jyoti on the outstanding achievement.

"Mulgi Jhali Ho" will be performed in Atlanta by "Sakhi" group of Research Triangle Park on May 8th, 2016 as a fundraiser for SMS.

News Courtesy: Dipti Damle, RTP, NC


Edited by Vaibhav Sathe, Suwanee, GA

Maharashtra Foundation

P.O.Box 2287

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(A) Membership	Amount	(C) MF Projects for the Year 2016					
Benefactor	\$5,000 \$	1. Chaitanya: Promote Healthcare Jankars				\$	
Patron	\$1,000 \$	2. WRCS: Prevent Deforestation				\$	
Life	\$500 \$	3. JVK: Support for Orphans & Vulnerable Groups				\$	
Annual	\$20 \$	4. Save Indian Farmers: Adopt-a-widow				\$	
(B) General Funds	\$	5. QUEST: Train-the-Trainer, Math Education				\$	
Maharashtra Foundation is a registered non-profit charitable organization tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of IRS Code Note: Please fill out and send a pledge form with your donation since MF auditor requires it to be completed yearly for financial audit.		6. Shurud Mandal: Education for Hearing & Speech Impaired				\$	
		7. Samkaleen Prakashan: Inspirational Books for Rural Schools				\$	
		8. Mava: Men Against Violence & Abuse				\$	
		(D) Other organization of your choice (Name & Address)				\$	
		Total Amount (A + B + C + D)				\$	