Namaskar Everyone,

A very happy and prosperous new year to all from all of us at Maharashtra Foundation!

First, I would like to thank Shirish Gupte, the Board of Advisors, and the Board of Directors for entrusting me to take the organization to the next level by asking me to be the next president of Maharashtra Foundation. I am truly honored and hope to exceed expectations by further scaling the Maharashtra Foundation name and principles in my tenure.

We have a solid platform on which we are going to build this year.

A few things you will all see in the coming year is a facelift for Maharashtra Foundation. We are working on redesigning our website to not only make it more engaging, but also to make sure that the information is well organized and easier to get to. Additionally, we are going to make sure that all information can also be accessed using your mobile devices. There will be also other events that we will arrange.

If you are reading this newsletter on paper and did not receive it in your email, then we need your email. We are striving towards minimizing paper. You can visit our website www.maharashtrafoundation.org and provide us with your email, phone, and do make sure we also have your mailing address on file with us.

We had a very successful annual fundraiser in NJ on Dec 2, 2017 with over $160K+ raised in one night and bringing our annual total to over $600K+. We were also very fortunate to have Sam Pitroda as our keynote speaker along with a fantastic entertainment program. Stay tuned for this year’s program information to be released in a few months.

I want to thank everyone who gave us the names of their children or young professionals contacts at the fundraiser event. We are reaching out to them, and will begin conversations with them. Over the course of this year, we expect to engage in more conversations, and leverage their knowledge, skills, and network to further the reach and expand on our projects in India, and initiate some projects here in our homeland.
On January 13, 2018 we hosted another very successful Literature and Social Service Awards ceremony in Pune, India. A detailed report of the event is included in this newsletter. As always, the event was house full and was attended by many people from here including Shobha Chitre, and Manjusha Naik, who is a volunteer with us. Check out some moments from the event on our Facebook page.

Many of you have asked about whether the organization that you are donating to is on our approved list, or about the timing of the disbursements. There is an article in this edition that addresses the approved list question. We will put out a detailed guidance on the disbursements, but in a nutshell the disbursement typically happens in the month following the receipt and processing of the donation. It is faster if the donation is sent to us electronically i.e. using PayPal via our website.

The non-profit landscape is also changing. There is more scrutiny on the funds that are transferred overseas, and it is necessary for organizations like us to conduct necessary due diligence and maintain a detailed record of transfers to maintain compliance with regulations. To that end, please note that we may reach out to you for assistance in helping us gather necessary information from NGOs in India.

Lastly, I look forward to getting your support this year and exceeding our prior goals. Please continue to reach out to any of the board members in case of any questions. We are here for you!

Ankush Karnik
President, Maharashtra Foundation

The Maharashtra Foundation (MF) Annual Fundraiser 2017

The Maharashtra Foundation (MF) Annual Fundraiser ‘17 event was held on December 2, 2017 at the St. Demetrius Ukrainian Community Center in Carteret, New Jersey. This sold out event was well attended by about 220 MF members and donors, including many new attendees. Snehal Vaze and Deepa Limaye, from the Board of Directors were Masters of Ceremonies for the evening.

The program started with an Indian classical dance presentation called ‘Awachita Parimalu’ produced by Indian Heritage and Cultural Association (IHCA-NJ), and performed by senior disciples of Kalanjali School of Arts (Guru Sudha Shekhar Devulapalli) and senior disciples of Archana Nrityalaya (Guru Archana Joglekar). It was an elegant presentation of classical dance revolving around the idea of the Virahini, a metaphor for a spiritual soul searching for God, or Atma Paramatma, as a woman waiting for her husband to return. The combination of beautiful Bharatnatyam and Kathak choreography and the carefully selected melodious music made this program a unique event to portray our rich cultural heritage.
The dance program was followed by presentation of Annual Report on the various activities of Maharashtra Foundation by Ankush Karnik, President of Maharashtra Foundation, where he touched on four key points – Opportunity, Empowerment, Growth, and Dream. Ankush also recognized the Board of Directors and volunteers who provide year-round support. This year also marked an important time in MFs history, where Shirish Gupte, who had been the President for the past few years, transitioned the Presidency to Ankush Karnik. Going forward MF intends to engage with younger generation and expand its footprint in India as well as here in the United States.

This was followed by cocktail hour, where attendees got an opportunity to mingle, network, and read about MF’s new projects while enjoying cocktails and appetizers sponsored by Thakar Financial, LLC (Raymond James Financial Services, Inc).

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Mr. Satyanarayan “Sam” Gangaram Pitroda, a telecom engineer, inventor, entrepreneur and policymaker; well known for revolutionizing the Indian telecommunication industry. Sam talked about how he connected with then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi because of not being able to make a simple international phone call while visiting India. How “improving the telecommunications in India” became his cause and passion, and how he gathered support from various administration. After getting some setbacks that even involved assassinations of two prominent world leaders, he remained focused and pursued his dreams to revolutionize the Indian telecom industry. He also emphasized that while donating money is certainly important, India also needs peoples’ time to bring about change. Overall, it was an enlightening speech.

The Keynote speech was followed by the presentation of 2018 MF Projects by Maneesha Kelkar, and fundraising conducted by all Board of Directors. Over $160,000 was raised during the event for donor’s earmarked programs as well as for MF projects. The program concluded with a sumptuous dinner catered by Rajbhog that everyone complimented.

Niranjan Deo
Board of Director, Marathi Vishwa
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This is the typical question we get from our donors. More so from donors who want to donate to a new charity, or from new donors who are donating for the first time through Maharashtra Foundation.

The answer to the question is, “it depends”.

Maharashtra Foundation does not have any approved list and it depends on the list of organizations published by the Government of India, and the United States government to ensure that we can disburse funds to the desired organization. Simply put, everyone wants to ensure that the funds are not used for terrorism or any related causes, and are in fact used for the intended purposes.

We therefore advise our donors to check the following lists before they donate to specific organizations, as we also check them at the time of disbursements. Lists that we check:

NGO must have the following if based in India:

1. FCRA: [https://fcraonline.nic.in/fc8_statewise.aspx](https://fcraonline.nic.in/fc8_statewise.aspx)
2. 80G: [https://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/utilities/exempted-institutions.aspx](https://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/utilities/exempted-institutions.aspx)

NGO must have the following if based in the United States:


**IMPORTANT:** NGO must not appear on the list of sanctions published by Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control. [https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/](https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/)

It is more important to check the lists more frequently than ever, as in recent months we have seen FCRA registrations being revoked and reinstated for many NGOs in India. We are unable to disburse funds to the organization if they don’t have a valid FCRA registration at the time of disbursement. It is possible that the organization may have had a valid FCRA when we received the donation, but lost their FCRA between receipt of donation and receipt of disbursement by the NGO. In this case we must wait until NGO regains its FCRA registration, or we must work with the donor to reallocate funds to another NGO with valid FCRA.

Finally, Maharashtra Foundation works with a range of NGOs that focus on many issues. However, per our charter and constitution we are unable to work with organizations that are religious or politically affiliated. Please feel free to reach out to us in case there are any questions.

Ankush Karnik

President, Maharashtra Foundation
IndiaRocks is a non-profit organization based in Sammamish, WA that has been raising funds for orphan children in India for the past few years. We have donated funds to Sindhutai Sapkal’s Mamta Foundation, Saraswati Anath Shikshan Sanstha in the past that are working in Pune/PCMC metro area. My school friend Ashwini Jagtap gathered information about Janaseva Foundation, an NGO based on Pune, that is working on various projects for orphan children and we decided to help them this year.

On June 10th, IndiaRocks organized a fundraising program in Redmond, WA for Janaseva Foundation, with the help of Vaibhav Sathe from Maharashtra Foundation and Jayant Bhopatkar from Seattle. Their constant support and helping hands have given me a lot of encouragement. I wanted to raise a money to help the needy children in India. I decided to host a fundraising event with a program based on music and cultural dances followed by karaoke night. We received a huge response and appreciation that day. I lined up my vacation to Pune right after the event in Summer of 2017, and visiting Janaseva Foundation turned out to be the best part of my India trip.

About Janaseva Foundation and Dr. Vinod Shah: Dr. Shah is a renowned gastroenterologist, associated with many prominent hospitals in the city of Pune, teacher of medicine and honorary physician to the Governor of Maharashtra. His wife, Mrs. Meenatai Shah, is the driving force behind all this and she works tirelessly for the success of the foundation. The professional success did not blind him to the misery and agony of India’s poor, sick and the powerless. The overpowering inner urge to be of service to people who needed it the most, got the better of him and he founded the Janaseva Foundation on 15th January 1988. Janaseva Foundation is a registered trust working over 29 years for the poor, rural population, sick, old disabled destitute women and girls through its old age home, rural hospitals, mobile health units, eye hospitals, physiotherapy center, Daycare center, Destitute rehabilitation Center, Grooming Academy, Nursing school, Daycare Center Institute of Education and Research Center. Also, they have their own Destitute Rehabilitation Center at Katraj, where mainly orphans are given shelter. Janaseva van contacts the orphan from roads, bus, railway stations. They are given clothes, food, and medicines. Once they settle down, they find out their aptitude and accordingly send them to municipal schools for education and in-house vocation training. At present they have 70 such orphans that live in the orphanage. The project that we decided to support is the expansion of the orphanage.

On our visit to Janaseva Foundation, Dr. Vinod Shah and Meenatai Shah welcomed us. The Foundation provides shelter to the aged and the children and make their life worth living by providing them with food, health, and other recreational facilities. But the stories behind these people coming to the foundation were heartbreaking.

Mr. Shubham Maheshwari, one of the managers took us around to see the facility. We started in the auditorium where we interacted with the children. We asked them to sing poems, songs, and a prayer. Everyone welcomed us and there was pure joy in their eyes. One of the members showed us the drawing and
sketches and it was beautifully done. After that, we moved to the dining hall which was quite spacious and clean and before eating all the members prayed and then the food was distributed. We shared a meal with them. Later we visited the medical ward where the old and bedridden people are kept. There is also a recreational room where the kids gather every day to have some quality time. We interacted with the ladies and one of them was completely blind and she sang a very touching song. The whole ambiance was filled with love and warmth. Happiness is a state of mind. The people who live here are away from their families, yet they live their life with a smile on their face. If we would love our life with our heart and soul, it would love us back.

Janaseva Foundation has served the society for the past 27 years. Their main motto is "Service to man is Service to God and Service to Humanity is the best work of life". I saw that happening in so many ways. Meeting with them was great, inspirational and honor for my family.

I was privileged to learn so much from the visit to Janaseva Foundation and I am glad that I could support this amazing organization with the support of my friends in Seattle community, Seattle Maharashtra Mandal (SMM) and Maharashtra Foundation.

A visit to Janaseva Foundation, Pune
-Aarti Lotlikar, Sammamish, WA
वर्षाचे एका नऊ पुरस्कार

2017 या, बंबईत एका नऊ पुरस्कार 13 जानेवारी 2018 रोजी पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अणित भाऊ संताने समाजसेवक आत्मवेदना व भूमिका करणाऱ्यांचा नातून शिरोमणी पुरस्कार पुरस्कार देऊन गायत्र करणाऱ्या महाराष्ट्र फॉउंडेशन (अभियंत) मुंबईकने पुरस्कारकरता राहून महाराष्ट्रवर गोष्ट देऊन गायत्र वाचवली.
Thakar Financial, LLC is built on principles of strong work ethics, integrity and placing client’s interest first. We strive to provide exceptional service to our clients and never forget that our success lies in the success of our clients.

We are proud to manage several Maharashtra Foundation Donor Advised Funds since 1995.
We are also proud to manage assets of many Non-Profit Organizations and High Net-worth Individuals like you.
We thank Maharashtra Foundation for the service provided to the Maharashtrian Community in US & India.

We look forward to many more years of working together

For all your “Financial Health and Wealth” check-ups, and Philanthropic giving please contact us at 412-809-0990 or girish.thakar@raymondjames.com

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