

Subject: Happy New Year from IASF
Date: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 8:48:10 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Kamal Acharya
To: mycalnet@googlegroups.com
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg, image003.jpg, image004.jpg, image005.jpg

Hello,

Hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe during this pandemic. The members of IASF (Indo American Sevaks Foundation) would like to thank you for your generous support over the years. We would like to provide an update on our activities this year.

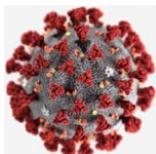
A great start!



We started the year with a very energetic **Valentines Ball 2020** fund raiser event in February, with over 200 attendees. Our focus on education for the under-served children in Odisha along with our collaboration with **Shikhya** and **Mo School** resonated with many. We raised approximately \$11,000 and an additional \$9,650 in pledges for Shikhya projects.

(Click the image on the left to view all the pictures from the event and to download any you would like to)

An unexpected obstacle!



Unfortunately, soon after the above event the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world and schools in India went into lockdown mode. As a result, we had to pause the Shikhya and Mo School efforts. After the situation gets back to normal in 2021, we will be resuming these projects. At that time we will reach out to the sponsors who had pledged contributions to these projects.

Helping locally

Under these circumstances, we looked for opportunities to help local communities that were affected by the pandemic. As remote learning became the default in schools across the US, there was an acute need for laptops and other supplies in under-funded schools. We also looked for opportunities to help with homelessness in our local communities. Below are a couple of projects we executed:

- **Family Support Housing** is a Bay Area organization that helps struggling homeless families. IASF raised funds to provide groceries and other essentials and donated 10 laptops to support remote learning needs for needy families. Our youth volunteer Kavya Moharana made a significant contribution to this effort. You can find more detail here: <https://iasf.net/family-support-housing/>



- We also provided 4 laptops to PS 206 Jose Celso Barbosa School in East Harlem, NYC for underserved students where one of our second-generation Odia, Ishita Mitra, is a teacher.

Engaging the youth

We looked for ways to keep our youth engaged with the community during the pandemic. We solicited ideas from the youth members of the Bay Area Odia Community and selected to support a proposal submitted by Satwik Panigrahi to conduct a global hackathon. Over 100 students from multiple counties participated in the event and prizes were awarded to the best projects. You can find more detail here: <https://iasf.net/hackventure/>



This holiday season, Satwik Panigrahi and Mihir Dash coordinated delivery of 200 sanitizing kits to a senior center.

Projects in Odisha

- The IASF Sacramento team raised \$1000 for the **World Family Foundation** which helps poor children through its **Prashanti International School** in Puri, Odisha. The details can be found here: <https://iasf.net/prashanti-school-medical-fund/>
- As part of the **Raise Readers program**, we donated books and almirah to S.C Bidyabhawan in Jajpur, Odisha. <https://iasf.net/raise-a-reader-program/>



We wish you and your families a Happy New Year. We look forward to resuming our projects next year once the pandemic is under control. We are extremely thankful of your support.

Regards,
IASF Team