

1Q 2018
Newsletter



One School At A Time
OSAAT
A Safe & Strong School for every child

A dream, a gift, and a life changed forever






January 2018 is a special month that OSAAT volunteers will never forget. First, in a simple email, Suhas Bhosale, a young man that attended Mahadev Vidyalaya in Rawalgundwadi, broke the news that he was appointed to the position of Assistant Agriculture Officer by the Government of Maharashtra Department of Agriculture. Next, Bhimrao Basavaraj Vhankhande, another young man that attended the same school took the State Tax Inspector exam conducted by the State of Maharashtra, and passed with flying colors. As kids, both dreamed about graduating from college, getting a job that would allow them to make life better for themselves, their parents and their families. These are just the kind of success stories OSAAT folks have been waiting for since 2003.

Suhas credits his success to the infrastructure OSAAT built for his school in 2012. The villagers of Ravalgundvadi had rallied hard to make improvements to the school building but were not able to make much progress due to insufficient funds. The school's day to day operation was plagued with logistical issues, with classes being conducted at multiple locations in the village. Students found it difficult to focus on studies and felt neglected and abandoned. Suhas says OSAAT's helping hand made a huge difference by boosting the morale of the entire village, and motivated everyone to step up their commitment to the kids and their education.

Bhimrao says he used to think a lot about self respect and dignity, having been treated like a nobody from a little impoverished village. It all changed when OSAAT rebuilt his school from a disjointed, poorly constructed structure into a new facility with 8 new classrooms and toilets. Total strangers reaching out to help him and hundreds of poor kids like him was a life-changing experience, he says. It motivated him to work hard and excel in school.

Both Suhas and Bhimrao have grown up to be confident individuals now and see a much brighter future for themselves and their families. **Congratulations to Suhas and Bhimrao!**

For all the people associated with OSAAT - as a volunteer, a supporter or donor, their accomplishment is a precious gift! It is also the kind of gift that leaves one craving for more. After all, how often does one get to serve a needy person without expecting anything in return and see that it actually changed that person's life for good forever!

    <p>Respected Sir, It's a great pleasure to express that I have cracked MPSC 2017, Maharashtra (state tax inspector) exam recently.</p> <p>It's noteworthy that in forming my personality, my High school 'Shree Mahadev Vidyalaya, Rawalgundwadi' had played a major role.</p> <p>Our school's infrastructure, educational atmosphere and its total look has been changed due to the OSAAT. I hope more and more students from our school will earn their name and fame and would lead a complacent life along with the dignity and self respect.</p> <p>OSAAT contribution to school will surely remain a milestone in the history of our school, our village as well as to me.</p> <p>Thanking you, Yours faithfully, Bhimrao Basavaraj Vhankhande</p> 	<p>With 21 school projects completed, OSAAT has touched the lives of thousands of kids in 4 States in India. With 2 schools in progress and 11 schools under review, OSAAT is fully committed to make a difference in the lives of poor kids in Rural India. Please visit osaat.org to see how you can make a poor rural Indian child's dream become a reality with a simple gift that can change his/her life forever.</p>
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The Bay Area Fundraising Front

Team USA had a phenomenal 4Q2017 and a great start in 1Q2018 in terms of attracting new donors and funds. The team worked tirelessly through the holiday season to increase awareness of OSAAT's work and promote its cause with private and corporate donors in the SF Bay area. OSAAT thanks these donors for their generosity: Praveen Bharathi, Meera Prahlad, Sethuraman Meenakshisundaram, Roshan Revankar, Florine Pradeep, Ravikanth V Kothuri, Sureshkumar Raveendranath, Ratna Kavuri, Lakshmi Rapaka, Vaski, Parvathanathan Subrahmanya, and Srikantiah Muralidhar

The event management team, along with OSAAT's Yuvashakti volunteers Shreya Basireddy and Vanya Vellore, worked with students of Bellarmine college Prep and Notredame High School on "Nazaara", a cultural event that has transformed into an annual fundraiser over the past 5 year, raising between \$5,000-\$6,500 for OSAAT each year. Mashia Rahman and Shruthi Shyam represented the student body and played key roles in conducting the event on March 24, 2018.

OSAAT received a grant from the Human Services committee of the Livermore temple for 2018, the fourth one to date. OSAAT was one of the honorees at the award ceremony held on March 24, 2018.

OSAAT's signature event "Naatya Raaga 2018", a 2-day music and dance extravaganza, was a huge success again, with 55 teams participating in the Dance contest and 40 teams participating in the Music contest. The event took place on April 7-8, 2018. As in the previous 11 years, the Indian music and dance schools came together for the event and showcased the best of their dancers and singers. Naatya Raaga has proven to be a prestigious platform for budding artists in the Bay area, with countless hours of practice towards perfection being the common denominator to earn a trophy. "Winning at Naatya Raaga earns you the instant recognition that you are a force to reckon with!", says Pradeep Joshi, founder of "Sangeet Dhvani", a Bay area organization that promotes local talents.



Team India's innovations

Team India is making steady progress with the barrage of requests for funding that followed the launch event in October 2018. After carefully analyzing the initial requests and multiple site visits, the team has shortlisted 13 schools, out of which construction of two schools has started in March-2018. Other 11 schools are in various phases of the review and approval process. The team has further streamlined several internal processes for screening the needs, assessing the overall impact on the local community, and best practices for eco-friendly construction.

A bird's eye view of projects in Progress:

Govt. Higher Primary School, Nagavalli: The groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 12th, 2018. OSAAT's commitment to the school is to refurbish and strengthen the Mangalore tiled structure of three existing classrooms, waterproofing of 5 classrooms, repair of existing toilets and build additional toilets for girls, provide water facility with storage tank and pump and provide clean drinking water facility. This project is expected to be completed by June 2018, cost around Rs. 15 lakhs.

Ittiam Systems, a Technology Solutions Provider, has sponsored the construction of the toilets, water facility and RO drinking water facility. Part sponsor of this school is Electronics & Communication Engineering Batch - 1992 of National Institute of Engineering (NIE) Mysore.



Children in one of the useable classrooms



Children waiting for a new classroom



The ground-breaking ceremony

Govt. Upper Primary School, Aben, Manipur - This school is located in Aben village, Tamenglong district, considered a very backward district of Manipur. The only way to reach the school is a 4-wheel drive from the nearby town. The school is at 1.5 km walking distance from the settlement. OSAAT's commitment is to repair/refurbish the existing buildings of the school at a cost of about Rs. 6.00 lakhs. The MOU and Agreement with the stakeholders were signed on March 22, 2018.



The school today.



Kids in a classroom with mud floor.



Another classroom with mud floor.

Projects under review:

The following schools are in different phases of our review and approval process. We expect construction for at least 2 of these schools to start in 2Q, 2018.

Govt. Higher Primary School, Rampura village, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysore district, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Tungabhadra village, Raichur Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Kattemalalavadi village, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Mulluru village, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Model Higher Primary Girls School, Malur Town, Kolar Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Benkipura village, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Musaguppi village, Gokak Taluk, Belagavi Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Chinnikatti village, Byadagi Taluk, Haveri Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Bai-Aregoppa village, Hanagal Taluk, Haveri Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Suribail village, Bantwal Taluk, DK Dist, Karnataka, India

Govt. Higher Primary School, Hosmar village, Karkala Taluk, Udupi Dist,, Karnataka, India

Every project listed above is available for adoption either in its entirety or a portion, such as one or more classrooms, drinking water facility, toilets, library or laboratory, depending upon the approved construction plan. Please visit osaat.org for details.



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