

Jan 2017 Newsletter



January 2017

In This Issue

• 1Q2017 Updates

Our New year “news”!

Saying we have a “new” New year’s resolution may sound like a cliché. But, we said exactly that as we said goodbye to 2016 and hello to 2017! As we look back proudly at many successful school projects that were completed in 2016 in true OSAAT style - on time and on budget, we said we will focus on incorporating lessons learned and achieving even better results at every level.

As our journey continues into 2017, we are excited to share our progress, along with our hopes and dreams with you - our patrons, sponsors and volunteers. Let’s begin with what we have done so far in 1Q2017.

The construction of **Shri Basavaruda Kannada Primary School**, in Kottalagi village, Athani taluk, Belgaum District is complete. This school is the 17th rural school completed to date. It has been completely transformed from an unsafe, crumbling, inadequate structure, to an impressive school building, with 7 brand new classrooms and a toilet block. The old building will soon be a distant memory in the minds of the local community that was desperately seeking help after years of neglect by authorities on both sides of its location, being on the border of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The Kottalagi school project was a joint collaboration between OSAAT, and Shri Basavaruda Shikshana Samsthe, the school committee, with People’s Organization for Wasteland and Environment Regeneration (POWER), Vijayapura, another charitable organization, as the facilitator. The road to success took nearly 18 months of teamwork, dedication, and meticulous attention to every detail. In the end, the school stands tall and proud, to the sheer delight of 242 children enrolled in nursery to 7th grade today.

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Picture of school before



School Now

Amruthapura School project Update:

The construction of 4 new classrooms and a toilet block for the **Govt. Lower Primary School, in Amruthapura village, Chitradurga district**, is underway. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on February 11, 2017, with the newly energized school staff, local officials, parents and children participating in the function. The long awaited lease on life the dilapidated school structure needed, is coming to fruition, with OSAAT committed to funding the construction of 4 classrooms, a toilet block and a drinking water facility. Below are pictures of the school before and now with construction underway.



Kids sitting under a tree



Collapsed classroom



Another classroom
another tree



Ground breaking 2/2/17



Construction in progress



Steady progress...

Moving on!

The USA team has put together an ambitious plan to introduce new events, raise more funds and attract more volunteers in 2017. The India team has been hard at work, very much hands-on to complete the funded projects and

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reaching out to more needy schools. The team also attracted new volunteers that have brought their energy, dedication and new ideas.

Fundraising and Partnership front:

- OSAAT (USA) conducted 2 major fundraisers - Naatya-Raaga 2017 on Feb 25-26, 2017, and Sangeetha Sandhya by Raaga on March 11, 2017. OSAAT (USA) also received a grant from the Livermore temple Human Services committee in February 2017. Huge thanks to all who supported us! There will be a few more signature events that are unique and exciting. Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcements on our website **ossat.org**
- OSAAT (India) signed partnership MOUs with ShoreTel, and GT Nexus.
- SanDisk launched an employee giving campaign and matched their contributions through their CSR initiative.
- Several individual donors also contributed generously

Our sincere thanks to these Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) leaders, and all donors for their generosity.

Naatya-Raaga 2017 Highlights

Our signature 2-day cultural event Naatya-Raaga was held on February 25-26, 2017. 600+ dancers and singers from the Bay area dance and music schools took part and delighted an estimated audience of 2000+ over two days. In its 11th year of celebration, Naatya Raaga continues to be hailed as a prestigious platform for artists to showcase their talent.

Below are a few photos from the music and dance contests of Naatya Raaga 2017.





Sangeetha Sandhya Highlights

“Sangeetha Sandhya”, a delightful musical event by Bay area’s premier Kannada band “Raaga”, has raised funds for OSAAT school projects many times over the past 10 years. Consisting of talented musicians in the Bay area, the band put on a fabulous show on March 11, 2017. In attendance were 850 adoring fans, enjoying every moment of the show.

Below are a few photos of Sangeetha Sandhya.



We thank each and everyone for joining hands with us at both events - as a performer, attendee, sponsor, or volunteer.