

April

www.AkshayaPatraUSA.org

Newsletter 2023



Dear Supporters of Akshaya Patra USA,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support of our mission to ensure that no child in India goes without education due to hunger. Thanks to your generous contributions, we have been able to expand our reach to the United States through our Food Recovery Initiative, which helps us combat both food waste and food insecurity.

We are thrilled to announce that we have started the construction of two new kitchens in Ghaziabad and Jharkhand. These kitchens will together serve hot mid-day meals to 150,000 children, every day. This is a huge step forward in our effort to end classroom hunger in India.

Our Chapters, located in several states across the country, have played a crucial role in raising funds and awareness for our foundation through grassroots events and galas. We encourage you to consider attending one of our upcoming events in your area, as they provide an excellent opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, support our cause, and have a great time.

We are proud of the work that we do, and it is only possible because of the incredible support we receive from our volunteers and donors like you. Your contributions help us to make a positive impact on the lives of children in India.

As we continue to work towards our goal of eradicating classroom hunger in India, we urge you to continue supporting our cause. Whether it is a big or small contribution, every little bit makes a huge difference in the lives of these children, helping to build a brighter future for all.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of Akshaya Patra USA.

Sincerely,
Navin Goel
CEO, The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA

Beneficiary Spotlight



Satya Ranjan is a dedicated 7th-grade student at Olla UGUP School in Puri. Despite living in a small house with limited resources, he recognizes the value of education and attends school diligently.

Although Satya's father encourages him to work and earn money, he understands that education is critical for his future and remains committed to his studies. Satya receives a nutritious mid-day meal through the Akshaya Patra Foundation, which helps to sustain him throughout the day and maintain his health.

The foundation's support has been invaluable to Satya, allowing him to focus on his studies and achieve his dreams. Satya aspires to become a social worker, and he is grateful for the unwavering support he receives from his school teachers and the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

He is confident that with their help, he can make his dream a reality and is committed to working hard to achieve his goals. Despite the challenges he faces, Satya's determination and perseverance serve as an inspiration to all who know him.

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District of Columbia, Virginia & Maryland Gala



We are thrilled to announce that our first Gala of the year was a resounding success, with over 250 distinguished guests from DC, MD & VA coming together to support our vision of eradicating child hunger in India and ensuring that no child misses out on education due to hunger.

The event was graced by esteemed speakers such as Vinodh Bhat (Co-Founder, JioSaavn), Rajiv Jain (Former CEO for Akshaya Patra USA), and Srivatsan Rajan (Vice Chairman of the Board, Akshaya Patra USA), who shared their valuable insights and inspired the audience.

The event was hosted by Savita Jain, who, along with Rahul Jain, led an enthusiastic pledge drive. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us in making this Gala outstanding.



Grassroot Events



Atlanta Holi Event

The Akshaya Patra Foundation's Atlanta Chapter organized a Holi event where over 500 individuals joined in the festivities and helped us raise awareness about our mission.

We are thankful for the generous support of local food businesses, who played an active role in creating an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed their time and effort to make this event a triumph.



Phoenix Chapter Walkathon

The Akshaya Patra Phoenix Chapter recently hosted its 7th Annual Walkathon Fundraiser at Desert Breeze Park. The event began at 8 am, where youth ambassadors rallied their friends and family to participate in an early morning walk around the park.

After the walk, attendees enjoyed a rejuvenating half-hour yoga session, which was highly appreciated by all. The youth ambassadors then took the spotlight and shared their personal experiences of volunteering with Akshaya Patra, emphasizing the significance of community service and fundraising for children in India.

Beyond raising funds, the event offered several fun-filled activities like musical chairs, lemon and spoon race, and pot-pourri sale by the Youth Ambassadors. The event also provided an excellent opportunity for guests to socialize and make new friends over brunch.

The Akshaya Patra Phoenix Chapter is incredibly grateful for the community's support and their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children in need.

Panel Discussion on The Impact of Malnutrition among School Age Children and Women

A thought-provoking panel discussion on the Impact of Malnutrition on Women and Children was held on April 9th, 2023, in Beverly Hills, CA. The discussion was moderated by Dr Tanu Pandey and featured four highly accomplished healthcare specialists- Dr. Sanjiv Jain, Dr Draupadi Talreja, Dr. Shilpa Jindani and Dr. Kalyani Mehta. They provided unique insights into how malnutrition contributes to a range of disorders that are very common but easily treated, such as being underweight, iron deficiency anemia, and musculoskeletal pain. These disorders are prevalent among the undernourished populations.

The panelists discussed how pregnant women with poor access to three meals a day remain underweight throughout their pregnancy, leading to underweight babies and suboptimal brain development. They also highlighted how a lack of nutrients like iron, calcium, vitamin D, vitamin B complex, and folic acid can cause anemia and disorders of bone like rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults. Protein deficiency can cause severe underdevelopment of organs, leading to diseases like marasmus and kwashiorkor. Iron deficiency can also cause restless leg syndrome at night while sleeping.

The interactive Q&A session that followed was met with enthusiasm from the audience. The guests were curious about food combinations that should not be eaten together, such as palak and paneer, which interact negatively. They also wanted to know more about common foods like oat milk, brown rice, and wheat. The panel of physicians answered all queries in a scientific manner, citing medical literature and evidence-based medicine.

We are extremely thankful to Dr Puneet Chandak and Mrs. Sonia Batra for hosting the event and enabling a lovely afternoon of insightful exchange /outreach and fundraising.



Kitchen construction begins in Ghaziabad and Jharkhand



With the support of Adish & Asha Jain; and Shachi & Neelam Rattan, we have laid the foundation for a new kitchen in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh which will serve meals to 100,000 children everyday.



To serve hot, nutritious mid-day meals to 50,000 students of government schools in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district, the construction of Akshaya Patra's kitchen has begun in Keitha village. The foundation stone of the kitchen was laid by Hazaribad MP Jayant Sinha.



In our last newsletter, we had shared the exciting news with you that we've started Food recovery initiative in the US and had undertaken two projects already.

We are happy to share that on March 28th, 2023, the Akshaya Patra Food Recovery Program successfully recovered 34,000 pounds of food in Arizona, which was our third project since the launch of the new initiative. These edible food items, which were initially slated for landfill, were rescued and distributed to those in need through our distribution partners, including a food pantry, a nonprofit catering restaurant, an organization that feeds the hungry, and a food bank serving food-insecure population.

To ensure the success of this project, we created two parallel plans, Plan A for Arizona and Plan B for Los Angeles, based on lessons learned from past projects. Thanks to the hard work of our partners, staff, chapter leads, and volunteers across Arizona, Northern California, and Southern California, this project was made possible.

We are proud to say that this brings our Food Recovery counter to a total of 131,682 pounds of food recovered during the year 2023! This achievement is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our team and partners, and we are grateful for their efforts.

Thank you to everyone who made this project a success and helped us in our mission to reduce food waste and provide for those in need. We look forward to continuing our efforts to combat hunger and food waste in the future.



Youth Ambassador Spotlight

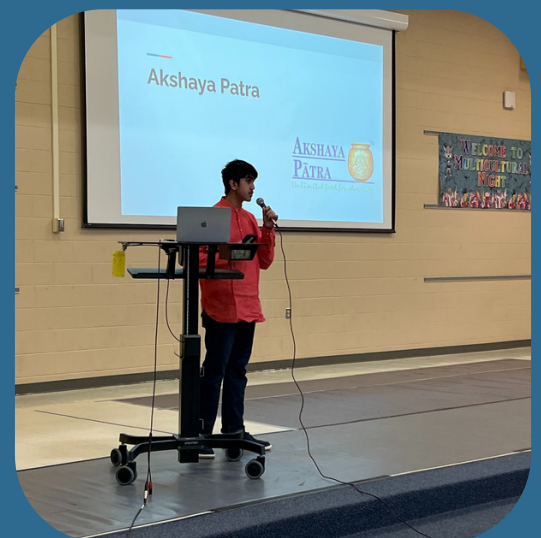
Hello, my name is Kavish Kondap, a junior at Francis Parker School, and a head Youth Ambassador for the Akshaya Patra San Diego Chapter. First hearing about Akshaya Patra's mission over a year ago, I found myself intrigued by its unique goal, and immediately knew I wanted to become deeply involved. The Akshaya Patra Foundation's specific focus on the juxtaposition between hunger and education spoke to my passion for helping others. Hunger, the intangible force that plagues provinces across India, remains a seemingly insurmountable obstacle for millions of unfortunate souls, preventing them from receiving adequate education. Having mentored across San Diego in the past, I recognized the integral nature of proper education in long-term success.

Realizing the ramifications of COVID-19 only served to worsen the turmoil of countless Indian communities, I resolved to organize my own campaign through Akshaya Patra to help remedy the situation. Wanting to honor the upcoming Holi festival, I decided to create handmade, vibrant tie-dye shirts to sell to customers around San Diego, and worked with the Akshaya Patra Youth Ambassadors to make the project successful. Although my community lacked in-person Holi events, through my tie-dye shirts, we still celebrated the festival of colors.

Continuing onwards, the San Diego Youth Ambassadors and I organized the Sapling Drive, raising over \$4,000 in a matter of days. Furthermore, by managing summer camps for students, I had the privilege to uphold Akshaya Patra's value for education in my own community as well, whilst raising over \$1,000 to donate to the foundation.

To date, I, along with the San Diego Youth Ambassadors, have organized multiple Akshaya Patra events, garnering thousands of attendees, and raising over \$25,000—the equivalent of nearly a quarter of a million mid-day meals for children in need. As the residual effects of the pandemic recind, I look forward to expanding my Akshaya Patra campaigns further, whether it be tie-dye shirts, sapling drives, or cricket matches. I'm incredibly thankful to be given the opportunity to express my Indian culture through community-building events, and am fortunate to have been able to raise funds for Akshaya Patra. Unfortunately, hunger pervades all aspects of Indian society. However, through my activism, I hope to rectify the institutionalized challenges facing countless individuals in the status quo.

Kavish Kondap



Ohio Youth Ambassador Krish Parekh speaking about Akshaya Patra at his school's Multicultural Night

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 22nd:** **BUFFALO GALA**
Kloc's Grove
1245 Seneca Creek Road West
Seneca, NY 14224
- Sunday, April 23rd:** **FOOD FESTIVAL**
Newark- Fremont, CA
- Saturday, April 29th:** **SPRING FLING- INDIA HOUSE**
San Diego, CA
- Wednesday, May 3rd-
Friday, May 5th:** **BOOTH AT TIE
CONFERENCE**
San Francisco, CA
- Sunday, May 21st:** **BOSTON GALA**
Burlington Marriott Hotel
One Burlington Mall Road,
Burlington MA 01803

Kitchen Visit



"Our visit to Bhopal kitchen was phenomenal. The production manager, Ajay Singh, welcomed us and provided a very thorough tour. He was very gracious and explained the changes in the kitchen cooking process from steam to water and the effects it has made on the taste of the food."

- Rahul Jain

