## JUNE 2023 NEWS LETTER





Dear Akshaya Patra USA Family,

I hope this message finds you basking in the warmth and joy of summer!

As we embark on this sunny season, I am happy to share another month of purposeful work and meaningful impact that our AP USA family has created. First and foremost, I express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your time, donations, and voluntary work for our cause. Your dedication and passion fuel our efforts to create positive change in the lives of those young souls who will be tomorrow's flagbearers—a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Amit Samarth for his dedication and passion towards Akshaya Patra's vision.

I take pride in sharing that we are almost finishing our Mangalore and Ghaziabad kitchens, increasing the meals served. With this base in place, we have started raising funds for the proposed Gorakhpur Kitchen.

None of this would be possible without the collective strength of our community. I am incredibly proud to witness the power of collaboration and the synergy that arises when individuals and organizations unite for a common cause. Together, we are rewriting the narrative and forging a brighter future for Akshaya Patra.

Sincerely, Navin Goel CEO, The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA

### Race Against Hunger at Race Across America 2023



**Dr. Amit Samarth** is synonymous with determination, resilience, and a passion for cycling. Your awe-inspiring accomplishment of **RACE ACROSS AMERICA, a 3000-mile race** to support Akshaya Patra's mission, is remarkable. We want to express our deepest gratitude, respect, and admiration on behalf of our organization, the children we serve, and the entire community.

We are thrilled to share that Dr. Samarth has successfully completed his race. We cordially invite all of you to contribute to the **'A Mile a Child' campaign and** Double your donation with Rajiv and Hima Jain's \$25,000 matching grant.





"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

## Winston Churchill

### **Chapter Chair Retreat**

The Chapter Chair Retreat in Chicago was an exceptional gathering that fostered collaboration, growth, and inspiration.

Chapter chairs from various regions convened for an immersive experience filled with insightful discussions, brainstorming, and strategic planning sessions. The retreat provided a platform for these dedicated leaders to exchange ideas, share best practices, and enhance their leadership abilities. It was a transformative event that empowered the attendees with new perspectives, valuable tools, and a renewed sense of purpose, equipping them to lead their respective chapters with confidence and innovation. We hope to see more chapters collaborate to benefit the Akshaya Patra community.

A massive shout out to Ms. Sonnal Ladvva for this amazing idea of the chapter chair retreat. Thank you, Mr. Raj Rajgopalan, for facilitating the event.

**Attendees:** Madhavi Nadendla, Sonnal Ladvva, Mamta Chinnappa, Rahul & Savita Jain, Dr. Dilip Mehta, Raj Rajgopal, Meena Rajgopal, Michelle Long, Dr. Snehal Parekh, Shiwanshu Kumar, Saket Sinha,Jayant Umrani, Shanthy Vinjimoor, Dr. Rachna Kulkarni, Sri Rajan, Desh Deshpande, Shridhar Venkat, Navin Goel, and APUSA team.



Kudos to Ms. Shraddha Kapoor and the team for running Akshaya Patra's booth at a Holi event in Chicago, raising awareness for the organization's vision.

Chicago Holi & luncheon

Nita, with her inspiring words and captivating stories, truly resonated with the audience at Luncheon. We appreciate your engaging demeanour and graceful interaction with our local team.

## **Event Spotlight**

**Boston Gala** 



Boston Chapter hosted a fundraiser gala on the 21st of May. The highlight of the event was the keynote address by award-winning author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

#### **Houston Luncheon**



A Community Outreach Luncheon was held to thank the Houston community for their incredible support in 2022, funding 50,000 school children. Chapter Advisor Janardan Thakkar shared his and his wife Linda's inspiring story of funding a mid-day meal kitchen in Bangalore, India.

#### NYC Art workshop



We are grateful for the unwavering support shown to Akshaya Patra at the Art Workshop by Shreya Mehta. Thank you, Anu Hirawat and Vishal Kotawala, for your generous support.

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# YOUTH AMBASSADORS

## JOIN US THIS SUMMER!!

Feeding 2 children a EVERY D

- Become a YA and hone up your organizing and leadership skills
- Build up your college applications
- Develop life skills
- Be proud to support the needy kids

SIGN UP







#### Father's Day Event

**Anagha** and **Ruchika** launched an initiative for **Akshaya Patra San Diego**, educating local children and encouraging them to get involved. They organized a craft project for the children on the occasion of father's day.

#### Talent Contest Winners at Boston Gala

Niko Matsuzaka and Mina Feldman from The Winsor School won first place. Laura Massimo, also from The Winsor School, won second place for her art piece, and Yajat Deshpande won third place for his performance of the Indian National Anthem on Violin.

### Ambassador Spotlight for Fundraising

We take pride in sharing a moment of hope our young volunteers brought to us! **West Florida youth raised \$2000.** Your efforts have made a tangible difference in many lives. **Rohan Gaikwad,** San Diego Youth Ambassador, raised \$1,000 for Akshaya Patra, feeding 50 students for a year. Your dedication and passion serve as a shining example to others.



## VISIT OUR KITCHENS DURING YOUR TRIP TO INDIA!

## SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT

## **Upcoming Events**

June 30th - July 3rd:	JAINA CONVENTION Lakeland, FL
June 30th - July 3rd:	NATA CONVENTION 2023 Dallas, TX
July 16:	<b>BUFFALO HOLI FEST</b> Buffalo, NY
July 22nd:	OUTREACH LUNCHEON - SUGARLAND Houston, TX
July 29th:	ANAND MELA Seattle, WA
August 19th:	<b>LA GALA</b> Los Angeles, CA <b>OUTREACH LUNCHEON - KATY</b> Houston, TX
August 20th:	<b>INDIA FEST</b> Overland Park, KS

## Millets to be included in mid-day meals



Millets have been added to the menu for mid-day meals to counter health problems and malnutrition among students.

This will be put into practice within a month or two.









@akshayapatrausa

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