

NEWSLETTER

The latest news from Akshaya Patra USA



**THIS FESTIVE SEASON,
LIGHT A LAMP OF
HAPPINESS IN A KID'S LIFE**

ARJUN'S JOURNEY:

Arjun's parents, uneducated and left with no alternative, were forced to toil in the unforgiving mines of Jharkhand along with their eight-year-old son, where life's challenges are endless. **Arjun, a young kid with dreams of becoming a bureaucrat, found himself helping his parents, as education remained a distant dream.**

However, a ray of hope entered Arjun's life when he discovered Akshaya Patra's Midday Meal Program at the local government school.

With the support of the program, Arjun's parents, in a heartwarming decision, sent him to school. The nutritious midday meals not only nourished his body but also ignited his dreams. **Today, Arjun is a determined young student aspiring to become an IAS officer with the goal of rewriting the destinies of children like him, breaking free from the cycle of poverty and fulfilling their dreams.** 🇮🇳



Support kids like Arjun,

**\$20 feeds a child for an
entire school year!**

**Our generous donors,
Roopa & Subhash Makhija
will match any donation
received on this campaign.**

DONATE

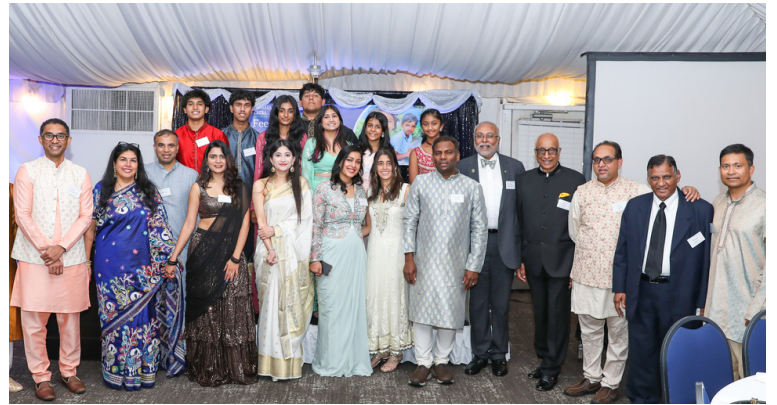
TRI-STATE GALA



At our pinnacle Tristate Gala, we were honored to have **Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, Kushal Sacheti, and Desh Deshpande** deliver inspiring speeches, reflecting our commitment to supporting underserved children in India. Among our supporters and well-wishers, we celebrated unity and our collective mission. Our heartfelt thanks to our chapter chairs, **Anu Hirawat, Ashok Sancheti, Beena Kothari, Biren Shah, Dr Anand Kulkarni, Dr. Rachana Kulkarni, Haresh RC Patel, Jaya Daptardar, Kiran Perry Kothari, Mukesh Modi, Naveen Sarada, Sanjeev Bagaria, Sonal Bagaria, Trish Shah, Tushar Phondge, Rajeev Pandya, Roopa Makhija, and entire the Chapter Team** for their unwavering dedication in making this grand gala a reality.

ATLANTA GALA

Another memorable evening in Atlanta! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished keynote speakers, **Roopa Makhija and George M Abraham**, for their inspiring words. We also commend the incredible dedication of our Chapter chairs **Sridhar Penumatcha, Swati Jain, Nagesh Doddaka, Ravi Peddu, Ravi Guntapalli, and entire the Atlanta Chapter team** for orchestrating a successful event. This gala showcased the unwavering commitment of individuals uniting for a noble cause - nourishing the dreams of children. Thank you all for making it an exceptional night!



DFW GALA



Our deepest appreciation to **Arvind Krishna, CEO and Chairman of IBM, and AP USA CEO Navin Goel** for the enlightening fireside chat on AI, quantum computing, and philanthropy. Thank you, **Siva Sivaram and Janardan Thakkar**, for presenting Akshaya Patra and initiating the pledge drive. It was our pleasure to honor **Hasmukh Vankawala** for his contributions and long-lasting association with Akshaya Patra USA. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to **Sapna Lall, Rajiv Vellore, and the remarkable Dallas Chapter team** for orchestrating this amazing event. This gala showcased the unwavering commitment of individuals uniting to eliminate classroom hunger in India.



Cleveland Chapter Delivering a Million Dreams

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated **Cleveland chapter team** for their priceless contribution to the '**Delivering a Million Dreams**' van donation initiative. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to acquire **six temperature-controlled vans** this year, ensuring the secure and effective delivery of school meals. These vans serve as symbols of joy and nourishment, each meal representing a fulfilled promise.



Young Professional Panel Discussion organized by DC Chapter

Our recent **young professional panel discussion**, skillfully moderated by **Arun Muralidhar and Sid Muralidhar**, highlighted the importance of societal development. **Their insights inspire us to work towards our mission with a new perspective and refreshed approach.**



Saree collection Drive by Bay Area Chapter

A successful saree drive, gathering gently used sarees has received an **overwhelming response, resulting in the collection of over 400 sarees.** These sarees were resold at Dandiya events in Walnut Creek, Mountain House, and Fremont to generate funds for our cause. **We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Kavita and Saurabh Kashikar for leading this initiative.**



Diya & Coaster Painting by Phoenix Chapter

In Phoenix, **Akshaya Patra supporters, youth ambassadors, and volunteers came together for a vibrant diya and coaster painting event**, illuminating our cause.

Thank you to Phoenix Youth Coordinator Smita Papadkar for leading and coordinating the coaster painting workshop.



Anika Gupta, AP USA's Youth Ambassador, Crocheting for providing meals to children

I'm Anika Gupta, a 15-year-old from Dayton, Ohio. Crocheting is my solace, allowing me to craft intricate designs and find comfort in the yarn's gentle slip through my fingers. Inspired by Akshaya Patra's mission, I sought to use my passion for a purpose. I began selling my crocheted creations, with every dollar earned directly feeding children in need. It's been a journey of self-discovery and connection to my Indian roots, bridging my love for crafting with a deep desire to make a difference. As my small business, woven wishes, flourished, I realized the profound impact we can create when we pursue what we love for a meaningful cause.



Akshaya Patra made its presence felt at Washington High School during a vibrant garba event. The dynamic duo of Youth Ambassadors, **Omkar Chennagiri and Ritvik Yasoda**, led an **engaging booth that not only showcased the sale of sarees and diyas** but also fervently shared the mission and impact of Akshaya Patra with the local community.



Special thanks to Venkat Kolluri for guiding the Boston youth team. Our YAs in Boston organized the diya painting workshop, dedicating their time and creativity to painting diyas for this Diwali, all while spreading awareness for Akshaya Patra.



We appreciate our YAs of South Florida chapter for their beautiful hand-painted coasters workshop. A special thank you goes out to Youth Coordinator Gajalakshmi Gnanasekaran for her exceptional leadership and coordination in bringing this coaster workshop to life.

Double your Impact with Corporate Matching



Your charitable donations could double or triple its impact. Numerous global companies actively participate in corporate giving initiatives, magnanimously matching their employees' contributions—frequently matching dollar for dollar and sometimes exceeding that.

YOUR DONATION + COMPANY MATCH



= DOUBLE IMPACT!

Billions of dollars in corporate matching gift funds goes unutilized annually since many eligible contributors, are unaware of this potential opportunity—a chance that could significantly impact the lives of millions!

To know more, feel free to reach out to geeta@apusa.org.

TAX ID: 01-0574950

New Kitchen in Mangalore

We're excited to announce the inauguration of our 6th Central Kitchen in Mangalore! Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, will unveil the kitchen on December 3rd, 2023. This expansion marks another step toward our mission of nourishing millions of children for a brighter, healthier future.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 3RD | SAN DIEGO GALA

DECEMBER 3RD | MIAMI GALA

DECEMBER 9TH | PHOENIX EVENT

DECEMBER 16TH | INDIANA GALA



Akshaya Patra USA's First Podcast is Out.

We are thrilled to introduce our inaugural podcast episode, hosted by **Nidhi Kathuria**. This is an enlightening conversation with Akshaya Patra's visionary leaders: **Madhu Pandit Dasa**, Founder and Chairman, **Chanchalapati Dasa**, Vice Chairman, and **Navin Goel**, our CEO. Listen [here](#).

In fond remembrance of Chandu ji, our esteemed Chair of the Boston Chapter, we celebrate a life characterized by an unwavering commitment to uplifting others. Chandu ji, a philanthropic powerhouse, demonstrated boundless generosity through his steadfast devotion to Akshaya Patra's mission of serving children. The lasting impact of his legacy resonates in the hearts of those he influenced, a testament to his resilient spirit and compassionate nature. Your Akshaya Patra family will miss you!

