



## Assam Foundation of North America



**Donate**

## Inside this Newsletter

[Page 1: First Virtual GBM for AFNA, AFNA's COVID-19 Efforts](#)

[Page 2: COVID-19 Efforts with the help of Seneh](#)

[Page 3: AFNA Projects Updates- Need your HELP!](#)

[Page 4: AKADAMICS Report, Kalyani Nivas Report](#)

[Page 5: 5th annual essay contest, Weaving for Care](#)

## First Virtual GBM for AFNA on June 27th, 2020

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time

Join using Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87654019184>

AFNA invites everyone to join our first ever virtual General Body Meeting due to COVID-19. The GBM will start with a new AFNA Anthem created by our Michigan volunteer group, followed by welcome and introduction of special invitees, the year in review of AFNA's operation and finances, as well as discussion about the focused projects with new and continuing initiatives. We will announce the nominations and election of the new officers and start the membership drive for the year. We will report updates to our constitution and kick-off the fundraising event for the year. AFNA is looking forward to connecting with our donors and volunteers who have made this a successful year of fundraising for several projects. We will share with you what we were able to do with your continuous support and what we plan to achieve in the coming future. Please join us for our GBM by using the Zoom link provided and invite others who might be interested in AFNA's work. There will be a special feature, a *Marquee Musical Performance* by Sangeet Natak Academy Award winner Sudakshina Sarma and her son Rishiraj Sarma. We hope to see you there.

## AFNA's COVID-19 Efforts

AFNA is happy to have launched its biggest ever relief campaign and fundraising in its history to contribute towards the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic in Assam as well as in the US. This was made possible through the efforts of its four partners, one in the US and three across the state of Assam. With their help AFNA is proud and glad to have supported more than 1000 families with 15-day ration in Assam and donated 100,000 meals in the US. The three local NGO partners which helped to carry out the project in Assam were RVC, SENEH and Akshar Foundation.

The RVC distributed relief to about 575 families in the district of Dhemaji, while the Seneh distributed to about 547 families in Goalpara, and the Akshar Foundation distributed relief to about 100 families in Guwahati, all within a short span of 27 days, spanning from April 5 to May 2, 2020. Distribution in the US was made through FeedingAmerica.org. This was also the biggest ever single fund-raising event in the history of AFNA totaling to about \$21,588 raised.





## COVID-19: Seneh helps AFNA to provide two weeks of rations to 547 hungry families

by Ranju Sarma

By the end of March, the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the entire globe. Already the majority of states in the US were under shelter-in-place orders, and India was also placed on strict lockdown, starting on March 25th. We have been getting news of the sufferings of displaced day wage earners due to lack of money and access to food. The COVID crisis has already left too many children and families hungry. During the volunteering meeting on the 5th of April, AFNA volunteers came to the decision to donate 100,000 meals in the US, and to provide two weeks of rations to 1000 families in need in Assam. Helping those in need in Assam was not an easy task as it needed dedicated volunteers. In certain areas of Assam, people were getting both government and private help. But in other areas, people were not getting any help at all. Some localities could not be reached by a car as there were no roads. Also due to the strict lockdown, all movements without permits were restricted, and food was scarce in the open market.



AFNA approached Seneh's management with the daunting task of distributing food to 500 families in the outskirts of Guwahati where no help was available. After the initial discussion about what the food package would constitute and cost, Seneh sprang into action. Seneh management assigned dedicated volunteers to prepare a list of needy families in the outskirt of Guwahati. The list was ready in a few days with a total of 547 families: 100 families from four villages in the Panikhaiti area, 187 families from the Assam-Meghalaya border, 140 families from the Kamalpur area, and 120 families from the Goalpara area. In the meantime, permits were acquired for volunteers' mobility and safe food distribution. Food was purchased from a whole-sale distribution channel, and the packets were made ready at Seneh with the help of its residents. The Seneh residents also made cloth masks using gamochas for the volunteers. The hardworking volunteers delivered all 547 packets physically by driving anywhere from 40 to 100 kilometers and then walking with the packets, maintaining the social distancing rules. All of this happened in less than a week. AFNA is grateful to Seneh management, its residents, and all the volunteers for this significant and timely help without which it would have been impossible to reach out to those in need and alleviate their pain somewhat!



**You shop. Amazon gives.**

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Assam Foundation of North America Inc whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support AFNA by starting your shopping at  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ctv/61-0994468>

### Help AFNA earn during tax season

- ★ Mention AFNA to your H&R Block Tax Consultant
- ★ AFNA earns \$20 for your referral
- ★ There is no cost to you
- ★ In the first year, AFNA earned \$180 via this non-profit referral program



NONPROFIT  
REFERRAL  
PROGRAM



H&R BLOCK

*Assam Foundation of North America, Inc. is registered under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code with Tax ID# 61-0994468. Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible in the U.S. to the extent permitted by law. Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.*

[Back to Cover Page](#)

## AFNA Projects Updates- Need your HELP!

### Akshar Foundation Report by Sarfaraz Taher

AFNA started a new project with Guwahati based Akshar Foundation's Green School Initiative that accepts plastic waste as school fees. This project is help to create a **Recycling center** that will build a recycling machine with help of blueprints provided by Precious Plastic (<https://preciousplastic.com>), train students on small construction projects with eco-bricks, construct a pathway at the Akshar, Pamohi campus as well as construct a wall to separate the toilets from the school huts. This project also includes funding for a Landscaping center that will a) complete the development of a mini-golf course where the students are learning landscaping skills with the objective to train the students and build a landscaping business for Akshar, which will be a source of future revenue; b) start the construction of a plant nursery with the objective to grow and sell plants along with the landscaping projects. AFNA has approved to fund this project with \$6,200 (or INR 4,22,800) for the year 2020-2021 and is hoping to kick off fundraising to support this project.



### Flood Relief Report by Pallav Saikia

Last year AFNA started a three phases bigger flood relief project for Assam with our partner organization RVC and we were able to have successful fundraising last summer to support this project. The project had three phases: Immediate Relief (for about 10 villages/350 families), provide funding for non-perishable relief items e.g. water filter kits (bucket, mug, water-purifying tablets etc.), mosquito nets, tarpaulins for temporary shelter etc, and recovery post the flood. This focuses on the same villages to provide items that will help the villagers in regaining their livelihood e.g. seed for crops, tat-xal (handlooms) etc. Additionally, long-term infrastructure works in at least one village (Adopt-A-Village). Finally, one of the 10 villages will be picked to build bathrooms, etc. by working with Village Panchayat.

AFNA carried out the first phase of the project in August 2019. The team put a plan in place for distribution of relief kits involving 419 families from the worst affected village. After detailed discussions, the contents of the kit were finalized to help the villagers immediately. A mosquito net, water filtering kit, and soap were few of the important items included in the kit. During the first phase of project execution, AFNA volunteers had regular meetings with RVC's field team to make sure the distribution was done in a timely manner. In the first phase attempt, AFNA disbursed a total amount of Rs.4,60,368 through RVC. Due to various logistical issues and ground realities, we did not proceed with Phase 2 of the original plan. We did a site visit in December meeting the RVC team and the villagers in December 2019 in Dhemaji district to understand the impacts and needs of our work. Based on our experience, we are now working on the original Phase 3 of our plan. We have adopted 2 villages in Dhemaji district where we are working on disaster management training, building raised hand pumps, and working on a prototype of an elevated community toilet to be used during the flood days. This was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation for the last few months but now work has resumed. We need \$7300 for this work to be completed.



[Back to Cover Page](#)

## AKADAMICS Report by Sarfaraz Taher

AFNA's scholarship program for college students is in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation. We started only with 10 scholarships in 2014 and now we have awarded 130 scholarships to date. We hope to add 45 more scholarships this year to meet our 2020 Goal of 75 yearly scholarships!! With the support of this program 99 scholars have graduated in various areas including B.A. (58), B.Sc. (12), B. Ayurvedic Medicine (1), B. Com. (5), B.E. and B. Tech (10), B. Pharm (3) & MBBS (10). AFNA thanks all our donors for their continued donations for so many years.

## Kalyani Nivas Report by Nabarun Das

Kalyani Nivas is a home shelter for abandoned and destitute children and young girls based in Guwahati, Assam that provides safe shelter, education, and improvement of livelihood for the inhabitants. The home is managed by Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and responsibilities range from providing institutional care, protection, counselling, medical treatment and rehabilitation for the deprived children.

AFNA has been instrumental in fulfilling all health and medical needs for the children at the home throughout the year, which includes hiring a part time doctor for regular tests and checkups and covering for hospital visits and treatments, laboratory test fees, medicines and expenditure for hygiene kits and toiletries.

AFNA is now looking to further support the home in terms of health and nutrition through improved food diet plans, providing medical instruments for general in-house tests and for special needs children, and providing hygiene kits specific to the impact from COVID - 19.



## How you can help?

Akshar	AKADAMICS	Kalyani Nivas	Flood Relief
\$400 – supports towards building a recycling center	\$350 – Supports 1 student scholarship for 1 year	\$200 – Supports 3 girls for 1 year to provide safe shelter	\$300 – supports long-term infrastructure works

**Donate to AFNA for a Great Cause - Together we can make it happen!**

[Back to Cover Page](#)

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

### CONTEST TOPIC

**“How has the Corona Virus Pandemic impacted your family in America and your relatives in Assam? A comparison.”**

### ESSAY CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to Assamese origin students who are studying in the USA, Canada or Mexico and is between the grades of 8 and 12 in the 2019-2020 academic year
- Essays must be no longer than 1500 words in length, submitted in English, and typed into a Word (.doc) or PDF file (Please don't put your name or your parents' names in this document).
- Refer to the "How to Submit" section below to ensure that all necessary information is provided by each contestant. Failure to provide any part of this information will automatically disqualify the contestant from the competition.
- Only one entry per student every year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
- Essay entries cannot have already been published.
- Any essays found to be plagiarized will be automatically disqualified and the student will be prohibited from entering any future essay contests.
- Second and third prizes will be considered based on the number of entries received.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

The essay should be emailed to [“afnaessaycontest@gmail.com”](mailto:afnaessaycontest@gmail.com) by July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with the following information in the body of the email: Contestant's Name, Parent's Names, How are you connected to Assam, Grade, School Name, City, State, Current address of residence, Contact phone.

Awards: The Winner(s) will receive both cash award and certificate and will be announced along with the winning essay in the AANA-ASSNA-AFNA Quarterly Publication “PRONAAM” as well as in AFNA's quarterly newsletter.

## *“Weaving For Care”*

*Please join us to celebrate a tradition of Weaving and Knitting;  
The joy of giving*

Dear Friends,

The Assam Foundation of North America is having a Weaving and a Knitting drive with a purpose to donate new handmade clothing items to charity.

We welcome your participation and invite your child to volunteer in this drive. Any child who donates a handmade item will be awarded a certificate of participation and volunteering hours.

Kindly contact Kamalakshi Hazarika by email at [goodfund@yahoo.com](mailto:goodfund@yahoo.com) to participate. The drive is already underway and the end date is Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We thank you for listening to our request and we wish everyone a peaceful year. With warm wishes –

From the “Weaving For Care “ Team



Back to Cover Page