



BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

AFNA WALK AND RUN 2024

The AFNA Walk and Run is a fun community event that promotes a healthy lifestyle and also raises funds for AFNA's charitable projects. It has brought the Assamese community together over the years for AFNA's cause. It has been a very successful fundraiser for AFNA, bringing new donors and volunteers. The 6th Annual AFNA Walk and Run last year took place in various locations across the US, including San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston and Northville, Michigan.



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Please send your feedback
to AFNA at:





HOUSTON, TX



LOS ANGELES, CA



NORTHVILLE, MI

Please check our Facebook page to view the Annual GBM proceedings held on June 28th, 2025 to learn about AFNA's projects for 2024-25 and roadmap for the year 2025-26
Drop by our desk in the 2025 Assam Convention in Chicago



Join Us for AFNA Walk & Run 2025

August 24, 2025, Almaden Lake Park, San Jose, CA

Contact us if you want to arrange run in your area

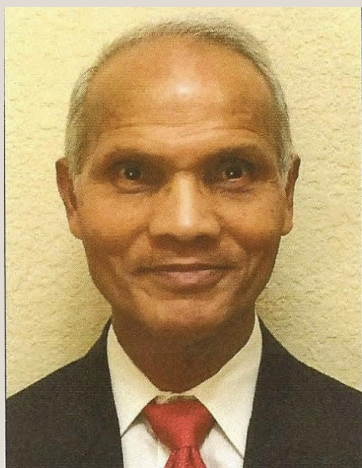
PARIJAT ACADEMY- PROJECT UPDATE

AFNA volunteers have been actively supporting Parijat Academy in Gorchuk, Guwahati, Assam. Parijat Academy (<https://parijatacademy.org/>), one of our oldest and most enduring partners, has faced financial challenges in recent years. Due to the academy's FCRA Certificate being inactive for a period, some AFNA volunteers provided individual support. Recently, upon the reactivation of Parijat Academy's FCRA Certificate, AFNA committed to funding a portion of year's teachers' salary as an immediate contribution to help mitigate their financial difficulties.

Additionally, AFNA volunteers have been assisting the organization by connecting it with other charitable organizations. These efforts successfully secured a significant amount of funding from a U.S.-based organization that supports initiatives in India. Additionally, individual fund raisers have generated significant funds that AFNA will transfer in the upcoming months. Parijat Academy is also diversifying its activities to generate funds and achieve self-sufficiency, although this endeavor will require several years. We commend the efforts of their founder and head, Mr. Uttam Teron, and his team of administrators in successfully garnering support from other organizations as they work towards sustainability.

Join us in our virtual monthly volunteer meeting held on the first Sunday of every month at 12-1:00 p.m. CST.

Email us at info@assamfoundation.net for zoom link



DR. LOHIT DATTA-BARUA

Beloved community leader, visionary, and cherished friend and mentor Dr. Lohit Datta-Barua passed away on November 3, 2024, doing something he was passionate about — bringing together his community and running alongside them to raise funds for a cancer hospital in Assam. He was 74.

Lohit Da, as I have known him since childhood was one of those rare individuals who left an indelible imprint on every life he touched. From humble beginnings in Guwahati, he rose through the chapters of his childhood, excelled in his educational career and immigrated to Houston in 1973. With diligence and determination, he pursued higher education and had a long, successful career in the oil and gas industry.

Lohit Da was a man of deep convictions and even deeper action. He lived by his principles and led by example. He believed in personal agency, in pushing himself beyond his comfort zone, and in embracing challenge, intellectually and physically —from running marathons to summiting Mount Kilimanjaro, from his insatiable

thirst for knowledge and compulsive reading to his entrepreneurial success - his life is a testament to his indomitable spirit and vision.

In a world growing increasingly divisive, Lohit Da stood firm in his belief in equality and unity. He cherished democracy and the American Dream—he kept a pocket Constitution on his desk. When he saw the need for change, he didn't sit on the sidelines. He ran for the local school board, driven by his belief in providing the right resources equitably to future generations and to advocate for better educational opportunities. Along with Manjula Bou, he supported many educational initiatives and organizations—in his last trip to Assam, he established a library in his school and the orphanage for girls that he supported was a mission very close to his heart.

To those of us who worked with him, he was a man of formidable intelligence and discipline—a taskmaster relentless in his drive to improve himself and the world around him, who demanded your best and inspired you to give it.

But if there was one thing that defined Lohit Da above all, it was his unwavering love for Assam: its language, its people, the majestic Brahmaputra river and his pride in the Assamese community in the USA. He was a founding member of both the Assam Association of North America (AANA) and the Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA), and his guidance and advocacy shaped these organizations for decades. His drive to build and strengthen the Assamese community was unparalleled. In Houston, he was a beloved presence—year after year leading Bihu sports with unmatched energy.

In the fall of 2024, when we began planning the first AFNA Run in Houston, Lohit Da's response was as vibrant as ever. Running was his passion, and establishing a running club with the Assamese youth was his dream. He dove into the planning with checklists, logistics, ideas—doing what he always did: bringing people together. On the morning of the run, he called to say he might be a little late as he wanted to take care of Manjula Bou's morning medicines—but true to form, he was one of the first to arrive. It was November 3rd, 2024. That day too, he took the lead, megaphone in hand, gamosa around his neck, he rallied the runners, gave instructions—and then took off running himself with his characteristic spirit: agile, steady, confident.

Moments before he collapsed on the course, he passed a fellow runner and called out his final words: “Come on, keep running.” And that, in many ways, was the ethos of Lohit Da's life—a journey marked by conviction, movement, and the unwavering encouragement of others.

He is survived by his wife Manjula, daughters Seebany and Indrany, sons -in-law Jonathan and Karim, grand children Kiran, Kavita, Munira and Reda, and the countless lives he inspired.

As I leaf through the pages of his memoir, the thought comes to my mind - Lohit Da, it wasn't just a long journey. It was a momentous one—rich with purpose and grace. A journey that continues to inspire us, to challenge us, and to remind us of what is possible when you live with conviction, generosity, and love.

We will keep running.

-Dr. Sangeeta Saikia

The AKADAMICS program was initiated with a humble goal of awarding 4 students from 4 corners of Assam every year. The very first year of its initiation, AFNA received more than 2000 applications. That surprised us and we quickly updated our first-year scholarships' count from 4 to 10. We also took an aspirational goal to increase the scholarship by 25 percent every year up to a maximum of 100 scholarships every year. We met that goal in 2021 and we have been awarding approximately 100 deserving students every year. As a reminder, AKADAMICS awards financially needy students pursuing bachelor's degree courses. The goal is to alleviate the financial burden so that the scholars can focus on their education and build rewarding career.

Currently the project is in its 12th year of operation. 348 scholarships have been awarded to date, and 240 scholars have graduated so far. This has been made possible through the continued support from our donors, not only through financial contributions but also through sharing of constructive ideas to run the program efficiently. This is also the result of the strong effort and dedication of the AKADAMICS volunteers who spend a large amount of their personal time every year in reviewing the application and performing the due diligence. A Selection Board makes the final selection, and they do a phenomenal job in the final selection process.

The AKADAMICS program has recently expanded its list of awardees by adding 41 new scholarships. Currently, 108 scholars are benefiting from this scholarship program. The breakdown of the current awardees is as follows:

1. Gender: Female - 34, Male - 74
2. Degrees: Professional - 64, Non-professional - 44

To date, 240 scholars have graduated with the support of this scholarship program. Below are some key statistics:

1. Gender: Female - 108, Male - 132
2. Degrees: Professional - 146, Non-professional - 94
3. Fields of Study: STEM - 166, Non-STEM - 84

The applications for the year 2025-2026 have closed on May 31, 2025. The applications are under review and the results are targeted to be announced by the end of August. Each scholarship provides an annual amount of Rs. 30,000 for scholars pursuing professional degrees and Rs. 10,000 for those pursuing non-professional degrees. Applicants must be Below Poverty Line. Here is the link to more information- <https://www.assamfoundation.net/projects/akademics>.





A group of AFNA volunteers under the leadership of Mrs. Ranju Sarma translated the book “Moon Time” to Assamese as a part of AFNA’s key initiative to focus on better healthcare in Assam. The book is based on menstrual hygiene and is targeted towards teenaged girls, and the information is presented in an easily readable conversational format. The book was originally published in English by Spherule Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Maharashtra, India.

Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA) in partnership with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Assam Branch, and Samagra Shiksha, Kamrup, jointly released the book "Moon Time" at the Guwahati Press Club. This project was conceived as a pilot project to easily disseminate knowledge on menstruation which is an important topic to discuss and educate young women. The strategic partnership among the three organizations - AFNA, IMA and Samagra Shiksha, Kamrup - is geared towards leveraging the strengths of each organization to propagate the much needed understanding and awareness of menstrual hygiene among teenage girls.



Recently the books have been distributed in different schools in Assam like Korla HS School, Bijulighat, Nalbari, Nalbari Girls High School, School in Barpeta, Shrimanta Vidya Niketan, Guwahati, Kaliram Barua High School, Guwahati, Panbazar Higher Secondary School, Guwahati, and Polestar Academy, Sonari. Currently work on 2nd edition of the book is under process. 3500 copies are requested to print @Rs105 per copy.



AFNA WEBSITE IS GETTING A NEW LOOK!!

The AFNA website is undergoing a major update. We recognize that communicating the progress on the projects is a key way to keep our donors and patrons informed. With that in mind, a new layout with an easy way to keep the information up to date, the website is being developed by a developer in India at a substantially low cost. We are excited to launch the new look website soon.

COMING SOON!!

PROJECT WEAVING FOR CARE



Weaving For Care

The Weaving For Care drive is an AFNA Initiative started over six years ago. We request adults and children to make items by knitting, crochet or other handwork to donate to charity. The items collected will be given to orphanages, senior assisted living homes, shelter homes, and hospice.

The drive starts at the beginning of the year and ends by the winter holiday season. All children who participate receive a certificate for their contribution.



We hope you join us to bring warmth and comfort to those in need. Thank you- The Weaving for Care Team

If you wish to participate, please send an email to Kamalakshi at: goodfund@yahoo.com

The drive will end on **November 8th, 2025**. All items made must be given then.

THANK YOU!

Every year, the Weaving-for-Care program starts early in the year and concludes by the end of the year. Under this program participants are requested to make one or more handmade items for charity. AFNA collects all these items and sends them to a non-profit organization called CARE TO KNIT. Inc in New York. The 2025 edition of Weaving-for-Care has successfully concluded. The CARE TO KNIT. Inc received all shipments and has shipped those to hospitals and shelters. On behalf of AFNA, we thank donors for their generous donations for comfort and care of others. Dr. Archana Chatterjee and Srimati Moni Roychowdhury deserve special mention for their significant donations. Over forty-five items of warm clothing were donated this year.



The 2025 drive will end on November 8th 2025. If you are interested to contribute please contact us. We encourage young children to participate in this drive as well.

ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF

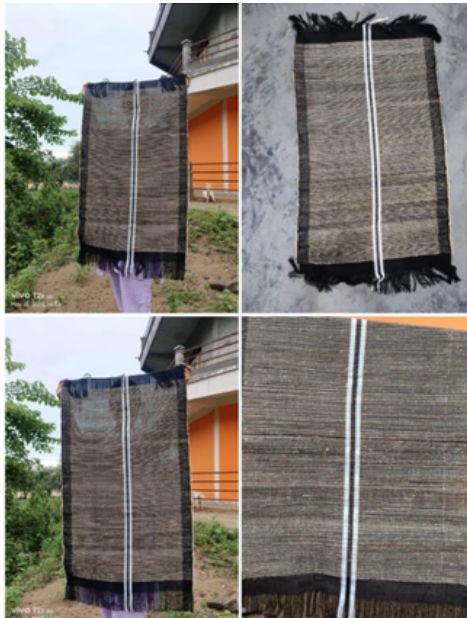


AFNA contributed to the Rural Volunteers Center, an NGO from Akajan, Dhemaji, for the construction of boats in this flood-prone area. Five boats were constructed in 2024. Late Dr. Lohit Datta Barua was a significant contributor, and two of the boats were named after his grandmother according to his request. Here are some photographs of the boats.



For more information & updates on AFNA projects

Email us at: info@assamfoundation.net
Website: <https://www.assamfoundation.net/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/assamfoundation>



PARIJAT ACADEMY



SENEH



ASHANEER/KALYANI NIVAS

PLEASE BECOME AFNA MEMBER &/OR VOLUNTEER

- Members have voting rights during meetings
- \$25 annual membership fee

VOLUNTEERS

- You can choose your project of choice
- You do not have to be members to contribute
- You will have a passionate team to work with
- We are apolitical and not affiliated to any faith



AFNA'S PROJECTS AND FUND-RAISING GOALS (2025-26)



HEALTHCARE: GOAL \$30,000

- FEMALE HYGIENE - \$5000 can support distribution of 2500 books/250 schools
- KALYANI NIVAS / ASHANEER - \$400 supports 1 girl for 1 year
- ADOPT-A-GRANDMA - \$350 supports one Grandma for 1 year



EDUCATION: GOAL \$30,000

- AKADAMICS - \$350 supports 1 student for 1 year
- SUPPORT-A-CHILD - \$100 supports 1 school student for 1 year



EMPLOYMENT GENERATION: GOAL \$20,000

- FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (FST) - \$300 supports 1 worker for 1 year
- SUPPORT-A-DISABLED WORKER - \$500 supports 1 worker for 1 year



HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: GOAL \$20,000

- WEAVING-FOR-CARE
- FLOOD RELIEF
- HURRICANE & WILDFIRES

DONATE DIRECTLY TO ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA

Here are some organizations vetted by AFNA

- Parijat Academy
- Kalyani Nivas
- Seneh
- Students Welfare Association/Tapoban, Pathsala:
-Residential School for Differently Abled Children
- Shanti Niwas Briddhashram, Nalbari:
-Shelter for Old and Helpless and Abandoned Parents

DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF)

Create your own fund with AFNA to support your charity of choice in Assam. The objectives of the project should align with that of AFNA. AFNA takes care of the fund transfer and accounting & you can avail tax benefit. Amounts are disbursed only upon your advice. An MOU needs to be set up with AFNA.

Datta-Barua Orphan Welfare Fund

Late Habibur Rahman Barua Scholarship Fund


Late Debabrata Sarma Memorial Fund

AFNA ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST 2025

The 10th annual Essay competition by AFNA is open for 8th to 12th grade students. Winning essays will be published in the post-convention issue of the AFNA newsletter.

THEME: "Assam has produced many legends in various fields whose name and fame transcends the boundaries of the state. Who is one such legend that you admire and why?"

Submission Deadline: 15th July 2025



10TH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

CONTEST TOPIC

"Assam has produced many legends in various fields whose name and fame transcends the boundaries of the state. Who is one such legend that you admire and why?"

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to students who are studying in a school in USA, Canada or Mexico and are attending grade 8 through 12 in the 2025-2026 academic year
- Essays must be no longer than 1500 words in length, submitted in English, typed into a Word (.doc) or PDF file
- 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 per 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" by July 15th, 2025 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 & Email Address:

Contest winners will receive a certificate and cash award of

1st Prize \$250
2nd Prize \$150
3rd Prize \$100

The winners will be announced, and winning essays will be published in the Post-Convention issue of the AFNA newsletter

DEADLINE:
15th JULY 2025

Assam Foundation Of North America (AFNA): A non-profit organization registered under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code with Tax ID # 61-099448. For more details, go to www.assamfoundation.net

THANK YOU DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



The Power Of 3 - Give To AFNA

Your generous donation and support help us continue our mission

COME JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

VOLUNTEER
U make the difference



PROJECT EXECUTION AKADAMICS | Calendar
FUNDRAISING AFNA Run | Convention
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook | Instagram | X
COMMUNICATION Website | Newsletter | GBM



<https://tinyurl.com/AFNAvol2024>



Eligible volunteers will receive recognition from AFNA & AmeriCorps (PVSA)

Age Group	AFNA Certificate	Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)			
		Bronze	Silver	Gold	Lifetime Achievement Award
Kids (5-10 years old)	1-25 hours	26-49 hours	50-74 hours	75+ hours	4,000+ hours
Teens (11-15)	1-49 hours	50-74 hours	75-99 hours	100+ hours	4,000+ hours
Young Adults (16-25)	1-99 hours	100-174 hours	175-249 hours	250+ hours	4,000+ hours
Adults (26+)	1-99 hours	100-249 hours	250-499 hours	500+ hours	4,000+ hours

<https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>



AFNA relies on efforts of its volunteers, to spread the message, raise awareness & funds for the causes we support in Assam and North America. We are seeking volunteers of all ages to help us contribute where it matters, have fun & boost your resume at the same time. Special request to parents of teenagers & young adults to encourage their children to volunteer time for a good cause, we would be able to find work which is suitable for their age & available time.

<https://tinyurl.com/AFNAvol2024>

Volunteers contributing their time are also eligible to receive qualifying hours for the President's Volunteer Service Award (<https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>) & certificate from AFNA.

AFNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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You can donate either by check or via online at:
<https://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>



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H&R BLOCK

Help AFNA earn during the tax season

- Mention AFNA to your H&R Block Tax Consultant
- AFNA earns \$20 for your referral
- There is no cost to you
- AFNA has been earning meaningful amounts via this non-profit referral program