

Annual June 2021 Newsletter



Assam Foundation of North America

Inside this Newsletter

Together we
can make
a difference ...



Join us



Donate

Page 1: Virtual GBM Invitation

[Page 2: Covid Relief Updates](#)

[Page 3: Akshar Foundation, Flood Relief Update](#)

[Page 4: AKADAMICS Report, Weaving for Care](#)

[Page 5: Kalyani Niwas Report](#)

[Page 6: Atma Nirbhar Update, AFNA Run and Walk](#)

[Page 7: 6TH Annual Essay Contest, Annual Budget](#)

[Page 8: AFNA'S Fund Raising Initiatives](#)

PLEASE JOIN AFNA VIRTUAL GBM 2021 ON JUNE 27TH, 2021

অসম ফাউন্ডেচন অফ নর্থ এমেৰিকা
Assam Foundation of North America

**ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH, 2021**



EST: 1:00 - 3:00PM CST: 12:00 - 2:00PM
PST: 10:00AM - 12:00PM IST: 10:30PM - 12:30AM

ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81713211058?pwd=N1JQNHB0MDZzSFFkaUJUUVJNWXRNZ09>

Meeting ID: 817 1321 1058

Passcode: 120954

AGENDA



Condolence for Covid-19
Opening Ceremony – AFNA
Anthem
Felicitation Of Our Special Guests
2020-2021 Year in Review

- Project Updates
- Operational Updates
- Financial Update

2021-2022 Roadmap
Nomination and election of new
Board of Directors
Kick-off to the Fundraising
Campaign
Vote of Thanks



Covid Relief Updates

by Sarfaraz Taher



As the second wave of pandemic hit the major metropolitan cities in India in late March and early April, it was only a matter of time that Assam was going to be hit by another devastating wave of misery, death, lockdown and curfew. AFNA volunteers assembled quickly to put together an unprecedented fund-raising campaign to join the fight to defeat the dreaded virus. The size of this calamity was so huge that it demanded the biggest and boldest response from AFNA. It was an all hands-on deck scenario as the health care facilities were getting overwhelmed with hundreds of patients getting added every day to the count of those who needed critical care. With the hospital running out of ICU beds within days, the need of the hour was to add capacity to treat COVID patients. This meant standing up centers with beds equipped with oxygen supply. The AFNA team put together an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 in a short period of 3 weeks to source and supply oxygen concentrators, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Oximeters for the newly created covid-care centers. For this effort, AFNA partnered with National Health Mission (NHM), Assam, who was leading the effort to stand up the covid-care centers. The concentrators were sourced not only from India but also from the US. A total of 47 concentrators, 1500 PPE and 50 oximeters were arranged in a short time and were delivered to the NHM over a period of 3 weeks starting early June. The effort that the volunteers undertook was enormous as the lockdown and strict rules imposed during by the government meant extremely slow movement of materials. A few volunteers worked nights and weekends to make this happen. AFNA also partnered with Indian Doctors Association, Houston, to source some of the oxygen concentrators. Thanks go out to Dr. Sangeeta Saikia who played a significant role in supporting this effort from IDA, Houston. These concentrators, PPE and Oximeters were delivered and deployed from the 4 medical college hospitals in Assam. Additionally, AFNA partnered with Purbuttor Pradeshiya Marwari Yuva Manch, PPMYM, to procure and deploy 50 oxygen cylinders at 6 different locations in Assam (Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Cachar, Dhola, Tezpur & Dibrugarh). These cylinders were provided free to patients who could not afford to pay. Beyond this immediate relief effort, AFNA is also planning a post-covid relief effort with focus on Rehabilitation, Support for Infrastructure and Innovation & Support for Vaccination. The post-covid relief work is due to launch in the next few weeks.





Annual June 2021 Newsletter

Akshar Foundation

by Sarfaraz Taher

AFNA is funding two projects at AKSHAR Foundation, an innovative school for school going children, located in Pamohi, Guwahati. Akshar imparts education and vocational training to school drop outs. The school has the unique concept of students learning from their peers under the guidance of mentors and students acquiring practical skills by working on projects in and around the school campus. These projects are designed to impart vocational training to the students and are guided by skilled mentors. Two such projects where AFNA has contributed substantial amounts are the Training for Landscaping and Training for Recycling. The Landscaping project involved the creation of a mini golf course, building a nursery, planting of flowering plants and developing an organic vegetable garden. The project is about 75% complete given that the Akshar team had effectively only 4 months in 2020 to work on, given the pandemic. AFNA has contributed ₹ 1,61,000 towards this project. The Recycling project involved the building of a small scale recycling machine utilizing instructions that are available on the internet from Precious Plastics. The assembly of this machine was completed and the students are using the machine to recycle plastics which are used to build bricks for paving the pathways around the Akshar campus. AFNA contributed ₹ 2,61,800 towards this project.



Flood Relief

by Pallav Saikia

In the wake of flood that hits Assam every year, AFNA with the help of its partner Rural Volunteer Center (RVC), provided relief to 324 households from 5 villages under Ramdhan Dikhari Panchayat, Dhemaji District in the form of shelter materials, wash kits and also conducted awareness drive among children on Covid19 in relief camp sites. AFNA sponsored 3 raised hand pumps and helped with boats for mobility during flood season in the past. AFNA also co-developed the Child Friendly Space (CFS) concept with RVC for flood relief camps.



[Back to Cover Page](#)



Annual June 2021 Newsletter

AKADAMICS Update

by Someswar Barkataki

AKADAMICS (AFNA sponsored Kaushik Das Memorial College Scholarship) is one of the flagship philanthropic initiatives of AFNA. This program was started in 2013 in honor of Kaushik Das a great philanthropist from Assam, to award educational scholarships to brilliant post- secondary students who are financially deprived. The objective was to encourage higher education among financially needy students and eventually making them capable of providing a better life for their families.

The Year 2020-21 was a year of bleakness in so many ways. Despite all the odds, AFNA awarded 40 new scholarships to the deserving candidates. This is an increase from the 30 we have awarded every year since its inception. Among the 40 students, 22 of the awardees are pursuing STEM courses and the remaining are from non-STEM streams. The highlight was that 24 of these winners are girls. The number of recipients for this scholarship that are being supported for 2020-21 is at 75 currently.

The AFNA_AKADAMIKS team had set a goal back in 2013 to support 75 scholarships per year by the year 2020. It was a tall task, but with the support from all of our AFNA members and well-wishers, we are happy to share that we have achieved our goal this year!

For the year 2021-22 we have already received 2000+ applications and our stewards are working hard to do the due diligence and the background checks for the shortlisted candidates. We are expecting to complete the selection process by end of June 2021.

Weaving for Care

by Kamalakshi Hazarika

AFNA is having a clothing drive for winter. In this effort participants are requested to make a self-handmade clothing item to give to charity. We particularly invite all children to take part in this drive.

May we humbly suggest that the children use their summer time to make an item to donate. It can be a winter hat, a scarf, a sweater, baby booties, a blanket or any other clothing item made by any craft work such as knitting, weaving or crochet. A child participating will be awarded a certificate for their contribution.



If you wish to donate to this drive, kindly send an email to Kamalakshi Hazarika at goodfund@yahoo.com . The drive is on the way and it will end on Nov 7 th. We thank all our earlier participants and send our gratitude to all who has supported this cause.

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](#)



Annual June 2021 Newsletter

Kalyani Niwas Update

by Nabarun Das



Kalyani Niwas is a shelter home for girl children in Guwahati, Assam who need care and protection and do not have any family or guardians to go back to. The home provides education, counseling, medical treatment and rehabilitation to the deprived children such that they can lead a better life ahead. Currently there are 40 permanent children receiving formal education and care and around 10-15 temporary children in the age group of 6 to 18 years.

AFNA has continued to support Kalyani Niwas since 2019 for all medical related needs and treatments which included hiring a part time doctor for regular checkups, expenses for medicines, laboratory fees and hygiene supplies, and any hospital visits or examinations.

This year, especially with the ongoing COVID crisis, AFNA has provided additional support to improve current medical facilities and medical provisions. This included installation of a permanent water purification system, supply of permanent medical items and instruments for special needs children including improvement of sick room facility, and providing more availability of doctor and nursing. A long term sustainability plan and self-generating revenue model is being discussed to improve medical infrastructure at the home and thus provide permanent solutions to medical care and service for the children.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can donate either by check or via online at:

<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

You will find all the necessary information about ways to donate in the above link.

How to Donate?

Visit AFNA Website to Donate:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>
or
Support AFNA through our Partners
AmazonSmile and **UnitedWay**

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice
- Your AmazonSmile online purchases could help AFNA every time you shop, at no cost to you
- Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose AFNA



United Way

Support AFNA Projects using United Way charitable Giving at www.unitedway.org

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](#)



Annual June 2021 Newsletter

Atma Nirbhar – Ek Challenge

by Enakshi Baruah

Atma Nirbhar – Ek Challenge is an NGO working in the field of economic rehabilitation of people with disabilities for the last 25 years. At present around 50 persons with disabilities are employed at its tea and grocery packaging unit at Birubari, Guwahati. Once the nationwide lockdown started in India on March 24, 2020, our activities at Atma Nirbhar – Ek Challenge came to a grinding halt. Very cautiously, we did start operations once the relaxations were announced for the tea industry in mid April, 2020, however operations continued to be disrupted throughout the year due to localized containment zones being declared in the vicinity from time to time. The erratic operations meant that our income was badly hit. We had, however, decided that we would continue to pay our beneficiaries throughout the period. It was at this time that many of our well –wishers, including AFNA stepped forward and helped us tide over this period. We are extremely grateful to AFNA and our other well wishers for their generosity which helped us to continue paying our beneficiaries their monthly stipend as well as contribute to their social security in the form of Provident Fund and ESI despite the irregular revenue earned. During this uncertain time, we were pleasantly surprised when we were awarded the NCPEDP Mindtree Helen Keller Award for being a role model employer for persons with disability in January, 2021.



AFNA Run and Walk

by Lipika Deka

The first AFNA Walk & Run was in summer of 2018 in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was a huge success in both 2018 & 2019 with 100+ participants in the SF Bay Area. Inspired by the success of these events, a AFNA Walk-A-Thon was held by our New Jersey volunteers in 2019 which was also very well attended and well received by the local community. In 2020 we had to cancel the event due to COVID-19. This year as life is coming back to normal again we are planning the AFNA walk on August 29th in the SF Bay Area. We are planning to go nationwide with events planned for Michigan, Minneapolis along with a few other locations. Stay tuned for more details for these runs in your area and join us at a location near to you. The family friendly AFNA run brings local communities together to walk or run for a cause and hope to continue this tradition.



[Back to Cover page](#)

Annual June 2021 Newsletter



6TH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

by Krishanu Kaushik

CONTEST TOPIC

To be announced in the AFNA General Body Meeting on June 27th.

ESSAY CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to students who are studying in a school in USA, Canada or Mexico and will be attending grade 8 through 12 in the 2020-2021 academic year

- Only Assamese origin students residing and studying in USA, Canada or Mexico can participate in the contest
- Essays must be no longer than 1500 words in length, submitted in English, 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 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 the deadline, with the following information in the body of the email:

- Contestant's Name:
- Parent's Names:
- How are you connected to Assam:
- Grade (2020-21):
- School Name, City, State:
- Current address of residence:
- Contact phone:

At least one grand prize winner will receive a Certificate

Cash Award (s)

Winning essay(s) will be published in the Post-Convention issue of the AANA-ASSNA-AFNA Quarterly Publication "PRONAAM"

DEADLINE:

To be Announced in the AFNA GB Meeting on June 27th 2021

AFNA Annual Budget

by Anamitra Bhattacharya

During COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, AFNA donors responded very favorably to Covid-19 related fundraisers. AFNA collected more than \$113000 in 2020 which is more than double the donations collected in 2019. In 2021, as the second wave of Covid-19 hit India and Assam, donations poured in and AFNA surpassed 2020 total donations by June of 2021. AFNA would like to thank all the donors for their generous donations and hope for their continued support.

For any queries

Do get in touch with us by sending e-mail to : assamfoundation@yahoo.com

Link to the AFNA website: <http://www.assamfoundation.net/>

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/assamfoundation>

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](#)

Annual June 2021 Newsletter



AFNA'S FUND RAISING INITIATIVES



In response to the rising COVID cases in Assam, AFNA is partnering with local organizations and authorities to procure and place an initial quantity of 100 oxygen concentrators & 100 oxygen cylinders at key locations throughout the state to ensure quick availability and access.

We are targeting to raise **\$100,000 in 15 days** to be able to act quickly.
Please join this effort and donate generously.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com
AFNA 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.



7 Days of Bohag Bihu Giving

AFNA wishes a happy Rongali Bihu and prosperous Assamese New Year ahead to all its donors, volunteers, and well-wishers. Please consider donating during the seven days of Bihu that will benefit the following seven charities. You may also choose to donate to our general fund. Your generous donation and support help us continue our mission.



Donate via check or online:
<https://tinyurl.com/AFNABohag7DaysOfGiving>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com
AFNA 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.



FEED AMERICA FUND DRIVE AFNA DONATING 20,000 MEALS



AFNA has initiated a fundraiser to donate 20,000 meals to the foodbanks in the US. Fellow Americans around the country are lining up in horrifying numbers to receive food assistance. Food banks across the United States are struggling amid droves of hungry Americans in need of a meal.

On this Thanksgiving, please consider contributing towards this fund raising.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com

AFNA 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 DONATE FOR ASSAM'S FLOOD RELIEF



Assam is facing severe flood situation right on top of the COVID-19 spread. We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com

AFNA 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.



SUPPORT FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS IN OREGON AND CALIFORNIA



Fund raising to support the fight against the wildfires devastating the West Coast of the US. AFNA has disbursed \$6000 in aid of the fire fighters fighting the fires in Oregon and California. We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com

AFNA 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.



Assam Foundation of North America
www.assamfoundation.net
Find us at: [facebook.com/assamfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/assamfoundation)

2021



In Association with



ART SALE

FOR ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF

A COLLECTION OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY TO BENEFIT ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA (AFNA)



To purchase visit: <https://afna.ticketspice.com/afna-photo-art-sale>

BUY RAFFLE TICKET TO WIN THIS ARTWORK

SALE ENDS
SUNDAY
23 AUG

FEATURING ARTWORK BY
REETOM HAZARIKA
NANDANA HAZARIKA
MAUSAM HAZARIKA



AFNA is grateful to the artists for donating their time and artwork for this cause. All proceeds after raffle and shipping will be donated to AFNA for Flood Relief.

SUPPORT TEXAS



Given the continued need for relief in the aftermath of the unprecedented winter storm in southern United States, AFNA had contributed 10,000 meals (food and water) through the food banks from various parts of Texas.

We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com

AFNA 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.



AFNA would like to thank all its Patrons, Donors and Volunteers for the successful fund raising campaigns. Hope you continue to help us!

Become a volunteer today!

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, there are many ways you can help - steward a project, do fundraising, keep our website updated, raise awareness among your friends about the foundation's efforts, discuss great ideas for new projects and initiatives - the possibilities are limitless. Come join us and make a difference!

[Back to Cover Page](#)