

May

Newsletter 2023

AKSHAYA
PATRA
Unlimited food for education




Brace yourselves for an adrenaline-pumping challenge that will push the limits of human endurance and raise funds for a noble cause. We are talking about the Race Against Hunger - A Mile, A Child Challenge!

This epic challenge features none other than the world-famous cyclist and endurance athlete, Dr. Amit Samarth, who is now a Brand Ambassador for Akshaya Patra Foundation USA. He is set to embark on an extraordinary journey that will take him across the entire length of the United States, as part of the Race Across America RAAM, covering an incredible distance of 3000 miles. The race will begin on June 13th in Oceanside, California, and will culminate in Maryland after 12 days of grueling cycling.

But this is not just any ordinary race. Dr. Samarth is racing against hunger, and his challenge is a mile, a child! For every mile he covers, he aims to raise funds for providing the nutrition of one child for an entire year at a cost of just \$20.

You can be a part of this incredible journey too! Follow Dr. Samarth's progress in real-time on the Akshaya Patra website and contribute towards his mission of feeding children and their dreams. So, join the cause and make a difference in the world. Let's race against hunger and give every child the chance to fulfill their potential.

Join the Race Against Hunger





Barsana Community Kitchen Inauguration

Akshaya Patra's 67th kitchen in Barsana, Uttar Pradesh, was successfully launched on April 22, 2023, thanks to the generous contribution of Shri Gagan Hasteer, in the loving memory of his parents Usha and Vinod Hasteer. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Chief Guests Shri Mukul Hasteer and Smt Reena Sharma.

Equipped to prepare 5,000 meals per day, the new kitchen also features a community hall where training and workshops will be organized for the staff. The mid-day meal menu will include Roti, Pulav, Kheer, Chana dal Loni, Tehari, Dal, and Kala Chana curry, which are part of the local diet. This menu will enable us to reach more children in the area and contribute to their overall development under the Central Government's PM POSHAN Abhiyaan scheme.

The Barsana kitchen is Akshaya Patra's pioneering all-women-run community kitchen, with 80% of the workforce being women and the remaining 20% being men who will handle technical operations. Through this initiative, we aim to empower local women by providing them with financial independence, decision-making power, and technical skills.

We extend our gratitude to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for their steadfast support of our endeavors. Through the Barsana kitchen, our sixth kitchen in the state, we will continue to implement various feeding programs to positively impact the lives of those who need our assistance.

Beneficiary Spotlight



Brij Rani is an inspiring 11-year-old girl studying in Upper Primary School in Bati, Mathura. She comes from a large family of seven siblings, and her favorite subject is Mathematics. Brij is currently in Class 5 and enjoys her favorite lunch of Dal Roti.

Despite her young age, Brij has a powerful aspiration to become a teacher and make a difference in her community. She believes that every child deserves access to basic education, and she wants to be a part of the solution. Unfortunately, many families in her village still hesitate to send their children to school and instead choose to send them to work as child laborers. Brij wants to put a stop to this harmful practice and ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend school.

Brij's passion for education extends beyond her desire to become a teacher. She also wants to raise awareness among parents about the importance of education. As she grows up, she hopes to inspire others to prioritize education and make a positive change in their communities.

Brij's dedication to her goals is truly remarkable. She serves as a role model for other children and demonstrates that age should never be a barrier to making a difference. With her drive and determination, there is no doubt that Brij will achieve her dream of becoming a teacher and empowering the children in her community.

Donor Spotlight

As we celebrate the love for Mothers, we would like to highlight some of our women donors who have been involved with our mission of ending classroom hunger. Read more about these wonderful women [HERE](#)

[Click to Support Our Mother's Day Campaign](#)

Events



San Diego Spring Soiree

On May 13th, Akshaya Patra San Diego hosted a Spring Soirée at the Prahalad Residence, featuring an engaging, highly nuanced discussion on the giving space led by Deepa Prahalad with Navin Goel and Murali Prahalad. The event aimed to expand outreach and welcome new donors while highlighting Akshaya Patra's impactful work providing nutritious meals for underprivileged children in India, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from attendees.

Buffalo Gala

The Buffalo, NY chapter of Akshaya Patra recently held a successful gala, which was attended by approximately 250 people.

The event was hosted by the chapter chairs and core team, along with advisory board members Susan and Nagendra Raina. Sunil Agrawal, CEO of Shop LC and a long-time donor to Akshaya Patra delivered the keynote address.

The gala was attended by a number of physicians, business owners, and entrepreneurs who showed their support for the cause. The audience was also treated to a performance by Agney Muley, a graduate of Berklee College of Music.



Donor Appreciation Luncheon in Miami

Akshaya Patra's Miami chapter hosted a donor appreciation luncheon to acknowledge the support of donors from South Florida. The event saw the participation of about 70-80 attendees, including some new supporters.

Events

Bay Area Food Festival

This is our second consecutive year of the annual Akshaya Patra Food Festival. A very special thanks to Miti, Shreyas, and Smit for hosting the event in their beautiful backyard for both years! Miti brought her chef's talent to provide a multitude of delicious dishes for the event along with a cookie decoration workshop. The entire family was personally involved with the logistics and execution of this year's festival including a DJ and comedian performance. Dipti Parekh hosted flower decoration workshop!

We are grateful to all our youth ambassadors and their parents for the support to make this a successful event.



Gujia Making Workshop

The Bay Area Gujia Making Workshop organized was a wonderful Holi event. Gratitude for Shalini, Mohit, and youth ambassador Aadi Saxena for hosting this event at their residence. Youth ambassadors, parents, and volunteers came together to learn to prepare and make delicious gujias. A special thanks to Bay Area youth coordinator Kavita Kashikar and host Shalini Saxena for taking on event logistics to make this workshop possible and successful! Akshaya Pātra is so blessed to have such dedicated volunteers as part of our family.

Chicago Holi Festival

The Youth Ambassadors of the Chicago Chapter enthusiastically participated in the Holi Festival in Vernon Hills. This annual celebration provides an opportunity for friends and families to come together and enjoy the colors, music, and delicious food, creating an unforgettable experience. This year, the Youth Ambassadors also showcased Akshaya Patra's mission by doing a presentation on stage. Their efforts resulted in recruiting more volunteers and raising awareness about the importance of providing healthy meals to children. With continued support, Akshaya Patra can ensure that no child in school stays hungry. The Youth Ambassadors are eager to participate in more events to make a difference in the lives of children and help create a brighter future for them.



Events



Ayurveda Event

On April 18th, The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA and Aastha Ayur and Skin Care collaborated to host a remarkable women's retreat. The event featured esteemed guests, including Akshaya Patra CEO Navin Goel, and renowned experts Dr. Thara Kodanda Ramachandra and Dr. Bhadra Shah. Attendees were treated to informative presentations on the impactful work of Akshaya Patra in 2023, along with personalized skincare routines inspired by Ayurveda.

The retreat served as a platform for empowerment, enlightenment, and rejuvenation. Navin Goel shared updates on Akshaya Patra's work. This collaborative effort showcased a harmonious synergy between philanthropy and wellness, leaving participants feeling refreshed and inspired. Together, the organizations are dedicated to uplifting women through holistic approaches, fostering positive change, and creating a brighter future built on compassion and knowledge.



Donor Appreciation Luncheon in Tampa

Dr. Dilip and Dipti Mehta hosted a donor appreciation luncheon event for the West Florida region, which saw the participation of around 40 attendees. The event proved to be instrumental in forming a new chapter in Orlando. Moreover, the West Florida region is gearing up to participate in this year's Jaina convention to be held at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, Florida from June 30th to July 3rd, 2023. Akshaya Patra will have a booth at the conference with many enthusiastic supporters.



Chai with Manju

Watch as the charismatic host Dr. Manju Sheth sits down with renowned author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni for a captivating conversation about her latest book 'Independence', and the inspiring work of The Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni will be gracing the stage at the Sold Out 2023 Boston Gala on Sunday, May 21. A Special Thank you to Manju and Chitra for their amazing support of the Akshaya Patra Foundation!



Please enjoy the exclusive interview in the [video!](#)

AP TEAM & CHAPTER RETREAT

We are thrilled to share the exciting news of our upcoming retreat for our staff and chapter chairs. After three years, this highly anticipated event is finally being organized.

The retreat will be an excellent opportunity for us to come together and delve into meaningful discussions about the latest developments within the organization. We will also dedicate time to strategic planning, charting the course for the future direction of Akshaya Patra in the US.

The retreat will take place from June 2nd to June 4th at the Westin O'Hare Chicago Airport Hotel.

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