



Asha for Education Chicago chapter

Asha for Education
Bringing hope through education



Annual Report - 2018

Pictured students of Project Gramya Sansthan in Varanasi, UP, during the site visit by Asha volunteer Padmanava Sen

Message from the Chapter Coordinators

A big thank you to all the volunteers and donors for your continuous support to Asha Chicago!!

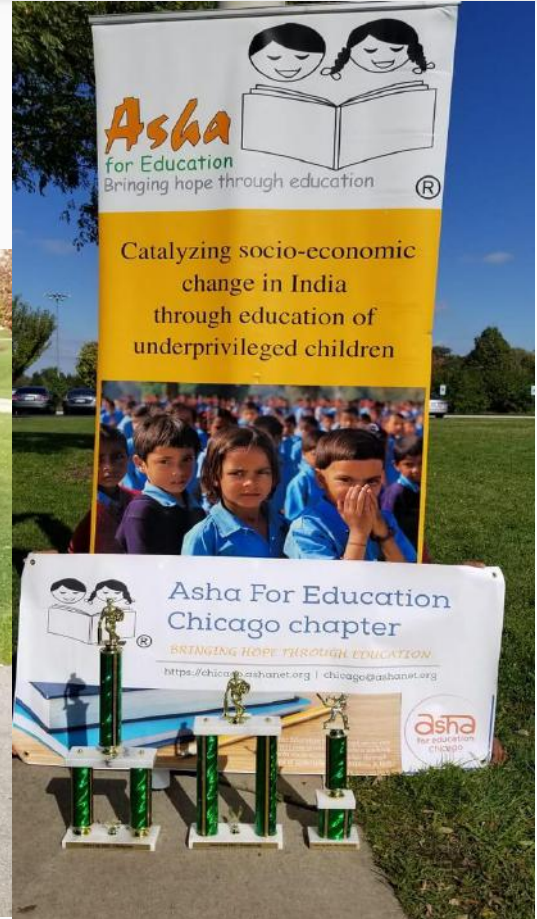
2018 marks 22 years of establishing Asha for Education Chicago chapter! We extended our continued support to our five projects supporting 1500 children in India and had more than 50+ volunteers join us for various events and activities throughout the year. We were able to successfully kick off some new initiatives like Support-A-Child on a small scale and Light the way campaign which have seen success, organized the Asha Cup cricket tournament and experimented with a new summer event called “Namaste Chicago” to expand the awareness of Asha to the suburbs. We established closer relationships with the various race events around Chicagoland for various volunteer opportunities in the spirit of keeping the chapter overhead to a minimum through community volunteering, and spread awareness among major Indian communities through booths at various events and we believe these outreach activities help us in the long term establishment. We have revamped our website and made it more attractive and informational to the new and existing volunteers!

In 2019, we will be striving hard to make our events better in every sense and creating more awareness to reach more people in the Chicagoland area. We will be kicking off new initiatives like Corporate tie-ups and Junior Asha , while scaling up the past initiatives of Support-A-Child and online campaigns. We will be striving to improve our website and provide consistent updates through social media about the progress to keep donors and volunteers engaged with the activities here at Asha Chicago!

We are sure that with your continued support together with our energetic volunteers, we will be able to achieve all the goals set for the year 2019! If you have any suggestions for us or wish to join the team, feel free to contact us at chicago@ashanet.org!

Event : Asha Cup Cricket Tournament

Asha Chicago organized the 5th annual cricket tournament in October 2018. The volunteers cheered for the teams and the teams showed great enthusiasm playing cricket despite the relatively cold weather that afternoon. Kudos to the volunteers, team and the event organizers involved in planning the tournament!



Event : Namaste Chicago

Namaste Chicago was organized in north-west suburbs of Chicago in July 2018 and raised ~5K in funds. The day was filled with music, food, jewellery expo, fashion show for kids, bubble show & unlimited amounts of fun!!



Event : Volunteer Appreciation Meet



Asha Chicago volunteers met for a day of fun and food at Foster beach on the lake shore. Volunteers had fun grilling and enjoyed the music and warmth of Chicago summer along the lake side. We are thankful to Dakshin restaurant in Schaumburg for providing food at subsidized cost to help support the volunteers who puts in hard work.



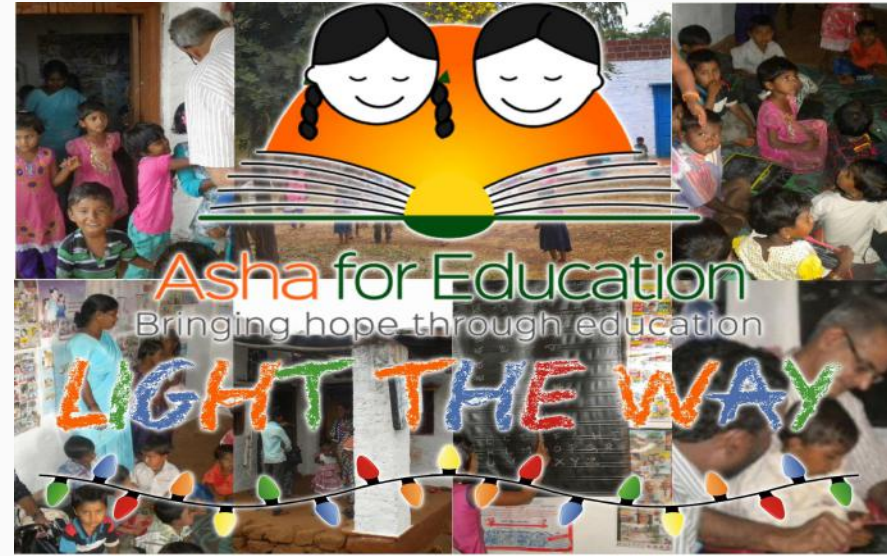
Event : Race events volunteering

In an effort to keep our chapter overhead to minimum, we have explored the opportunity of volunteering with various races around Chicagoland && as a thank you, we received generous donations from the race organizers for the race day work put in by Asha volunteers. More than 30 volunteers(at least 20 new) joined Asha in these efforts over 5 different days over 3 different race events like Chicago triathlon(pic1), Chicago half & Fox valley marathon(pic2) and we were also able to create awareness about our cause during these activities.



Event: Chicago Marathon & LTW Campaign

Asha Chicago has raised 15K+ through Team Asha in the year 2018. Over all 20 runners participated through Asha, including non chicago runners.



To facilitate using digital platform for fundraising, we have launched Light the Way(LTW) campaign during Thanksgiving & Christmas weeks and have seen good response for the initiative. In the future, we will strive to utilize online resources to reach people through the digital platform effectively.

Outreach activities



Asha Chicago has spread its wings to create awareness for the cause around Chicagoland area by setting up booths during various events. In clockwise order, Asha Chicago booth at Holi event in Vernon Hills, Asha booth at Garbha event at Loyola University in Chicago downtown and Asha booth at Diwali event organized by Indian American community in Aurora to spread awareness about Asha in general and our activities like Namaste Chicago and Team Asha!

Projects supported

Navjyoti	Gramya	Aralu-PPC	Aralu-Belaku	Swadhar (Asha community center)	Swadhar (Project Mohor)
Aaraji line villages near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Naugarh (Chandholi district), Uttar Pradesh	Bidar district, Karnataka	Bidar district, Karnataka	Bibvewadi area near Pune, Maharashtra	Pune, Maharashtra
500 students	575 students	64 students	20 students	258 students	70 children
Primary, non-formal education. Special Vocational training centers for women.	Primary, non-formal education to tribal children and empower the community. 8 centers	Support two day care centers for children (aged 6 years and below) of working women.	Rehabilitation and education for destitute orphans and child laborers in a residential center.	Non-formal education and life skills education for adolescent girls and women.	Day/night care center providing shelter, food, supplementary education to children of commercial sex workers

Finances

Starting Balance for 2018	USD 98,840.55
Project Disbursements	-USD 87,033.56
Event Expenses	-USD 1,816.98
Funds raised through events	USD 18,453.86
Donations(General+project specific)	USD 54,632.92
Year Ending Balance	USD 83,076.79

- We raised \$10 for every \$1 spent on FR directly and \$40 for every \$1 spent overall
- All expenses are accounted from our event ticket sales and community volunteering
- 100% of our donations go to the projects we support

Values and goals

Asha for Education is a secular organization dedicated to change in India by focusing on basic education with the belief that education is a critical requisite for socio-economic change.

KEY VALUES:

- ❖ 100% volunteer driven: No person in any chapter gets salary, stipend or honorarium
- ❖ Non-Hierarchical organization structure: All volunteers have equal say in how the organization functions
- ❖ Minimal/zero overhead on donations
- ❖ Non-sectarian, secular, non-political and non-religious

Vision 2019

- ❖ Kick start grant writing and secure grants
- ❖ Improve donor relation
- ❖ Efficient fundraising with specific goals
- ❖ Ensure project disbursements are on time
- ❖ Identify sustainable long term projects and
- ❖ Streamline addition of new projects

Spread the word and grow the chapter!

Sincere thanks to all the volunteers!!!!



Want to join the core team?

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to join our core team for various roles. Email chicago@ashanet.org if you're interested.



Website: <https://chicago.ashanet.org/>

Fb page: www.facebook.com/ashaforeducationChicago

Contact us: chicago@ashanet.org

Asha for Education is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.
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