



NEWSLETTER

Assam Foundation of North America



Special Annual Edition, 2018

## AFNA's college scholarship program AKADAMICS

Support a college scholarship for one student with just \$350 a year. Donate today and make a student's dreams come true

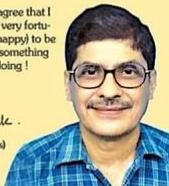
In 2018, AKADAMIC Scholarships entered the 5th year of its successful operation. To date, 43 AKADAMICS awardees have successfully completed their bachelor's degree from colleges across Assam. 18 graduates are from the STEM stream and 25 are from the non-STEM stream. 16 of the graduates are females. Based on our success, AKADAMICS increase the number of scholarships from 20 to 30 last year. We plan to continue to award 30 scholarships this year as well. AKADAMICS is looking to raise \$6500 at this year's Assam Convention in Washington DC, USA. A contribution of \$350 enables awarding 1 college student for 1 year. In addition to financial help, AKADAMICS is also partnering with Xomidhan ([www.xomidhan.org](http://www.xomidhan.org)) to support the awardees with mentorship. Here are some testimonials from the awardees:

- ❖ Sadiqul Alam (pursuing B. Pharma in Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh) – "...I am thankful to you and your organization for providing me such a wonderful advantage in shaping my life and achieving my career oriented goals ....."
- ❖ Dimpi Deb (pursuing B.Com in DHSK Commerce College, Dibrugarh) – "...First of all, I am very grateful to the AKADAMICS for the scholarship they have provided. The first instalment helps me very much for continuing my studies. Also thanks for selecting me in the Xomidhan Mentorship Program and providing me a mentor to guide and help in my studies and in reaching my career goal ....."

AFNA sponsored  
Kaushik Das  
Memorial College  
Scholarship

You will agree that I am indeed very fortunate (and happy) to be able to do something that I like doing!

Kaushik Das  
(Kaushik Das)



30 students are awarded every year and AFNA Invests over \$10, 000 annually

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- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support AFNA by starting your shopping at  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/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



# AFNA's Contribution to Seneh -A Glimpse of the Past Year



**Adopt a Grandma with an annual contribution of \$300 and provide her the new life she deserves**



Last year, Seneh expanded to have a second destitute home in North Lakhimpur. AFNA's donation made that possible. The donation money also pays the salary for a full-time nurse in Guwahati. Seneh is now going a step further. To prevent future cases of destitution, it is now also focusing on young women's health issues, like anemia and sanitary hygiene, with many additional medical outreach efforts aimed at village girls. With the help of three volunteer doctors and AFNA donations, Seneh has recently done a medical camp in Patacharkuchi Girls High School to provide health education, deworming drugs, iron and multi-vitamin supplements.

Seneh's mission is to provide a home to homeless and destitute women while helping them live a healthy and happy life in their golden years. AFNA is proud to be a part of this noble endeavor. Seneh runs two destitute homes in Assam: one in Guwahati and one in North Lakhimpur with 24 and 4 residents, respectively. These needy residents were often scouted by AFNA volunteers or referred to the homes by the local constabulary. Most of the individuals were actually found lying on the pavement of the road in truly horrific conditions. Some had been suffering from chronic untreated illnesses and injuries and some were identified to have severe mental or heart conditions; many others were highly anemic from gross malnutrition. For new residents, Seneh first treats the acute conditions; then, once stable, it then gives them a free, nurturing home and provides constant medical support as needed. To date, these services have been funded solely by "Bhavada Devi Memorial Philanthropic Trust", and supported only by a few extremely dedicated volunteers, as well as a medical NGO. In the summer of 2017, AFNA started the "Adopt A Grandma" project to cover medical expenses for Seneh residents for three years with six, \$3000, half-yearly installments. AFNA has donated two installments already, covering 80% of the psychiatric drugs, 60% of the cost related to cataract surgeries, and 100% of the diabetic and heart disease maintenance costs for the year. During this time, Seneh had adopted 5 new residents including, most notably, Ms. Purnima Rava. AFNA's donation helped Seneh rescue Ms. Rabha, who was found lying in a busy intersection with debilitating swollen legs and leaking heart valves. The following are a few pictures to show Ms. Rabha's progress.



We, the Assamese diaspora living in the US, away from our beautiful but poverty-stricken motherland can only extend help through such dedicated organizations like Seneh. On the behalf of AFNA, I would like to thank all our donors and well-wishers for donating for this humanitarian cause. We also thank Seneh, and particularly, Gp Cpt. A C Barua, for his relentless work to help the poor, sickly, neglected ones and for helping give them new lives.

**We here at AFNA look forward to having another productive year for the "Adopt A Grandma" project. We hope you'll continue to join us in supporting this remarkable effort.**

Contact us  
[Email](#)  
[AFNA Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)

[Donate online](#)



**Get Involved:**  
**Monthly volunteer call:**  
First Sunday, every month,  
10am - 11am PT  
Dial in: 641-7153272  
Code: 457920#

# A Residential School for Specially-abled Children



Tapoban is a Children's home in Pathsala, Assam for abandoned specially-abled children, more commonly known as the disabled children in our society. In 2005, Prof. Kumud Kalita started Tapoban with three children with his own money and a dream to have a home one day for the needy and differently abled children in exquisite surroundings in nature where they could play, run, sing and enjoy their lives with the highest degree of freedom. Today Tapoban is home to 30 resident students and around 70 non-resident students with special needs. They provide various trainings and therapy sessions including speech therapy, physiotherapy, Braille Education, music, arts and sports to all the residents and the non-resident children. Tapoban is one of the rare places in Assam that provides such support for the specially-abled children. Assam needs more places like Tapoban to help our children in need so they can be taken care of and they can become independent one day through the training and education provided by Tapoban. AFNA has been working with Tapoban for many years by supporting their needs time to time. This year AFNA hopes to do more work and help them achieve couple of their immediate needs. We request your generous donation to help us support this residential school for specially-abled children.

## Two immediate needs this year for Tapoban:

1) *There is no place to wait or use restroom for parents/guardians of the 70 non-resident students while waiting for them to attend the day therapy as they come from faraway places. A waiting area for these parents/guardians will make it easier for them to bring their children regularly to Tapoban.*

2) *An elevator for the new resident building because majority of students are unable to use the staircase without assistance. The building has provision for an elevator but due to financial shortage they are unable to setup a hydraulic elevator.*



A School like Tapoban is a gift and a necessity in Assam that is not getting as much help and financial support it needs to do what it does best. Please help!



Support Tapoban with annual donation of \$500 and make these children have a respectful and independent life they all deserve.



Check out an inspiring [video](#) about Tapoban.



**Together we can make a difference**  
**Join AFNA to bring a positive change to someone's life**

AFNA thanks the contributors for the articles for this special issue of our newsletter. The volunteers contributing on this newsletter are (in order of the articles) Sarfaraz Taher, Ranju Sarma, Chandan Talukdar, Lipika Deka and Pallav Saikia.

**Support AFNA and  
pick up a button at the  
AFNA Booth**



**We also support – Atma Nirbhar Ek-  
Challenge, Sishu Sarothi, Fertile Ground,  
SHED, Swabalambi, Tree-4-All and  
more.....**

## **Join AFNA at 2018 Assam Convention, Washington DC June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**AGENDA FOR THE 2018 GENERAL BODY MEETING on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> in Rockbridge room, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

- ❖ Last year in review
- ❖ Projects Updates
- ❖ Operations Overview
- ❖ Finance Overview
- ❖ Nomination and Election of Board of Directors and officers
- ❖ 2018-2021 Roadmap
- ❖ 2018 Budget

### **Support-A-Child update**

AFNA continues to run its flagship Support-A-Child program providing support to school going students in Assam. We started this program in 2008 and has been continuously supporting 50 to 100 students every year since then. For last few years, our focus has been in helping two institutes SHED & Tapoban, that primarily caters to children with disabilities. Each of these institutes host around 30 students with disabilities in their hostel facilities. They barely charge anything to these students as many of them have no financial means to receive such service. AFNA, like last year, provided \$3000 to both the institutes to cover around 50% of the cost of food and lodging of these students. Additionally, we are happy to continue with our relationship with Patacharkuchi Girls' High School where we provided scholarships to 25 of the needy students with merits. AFNA thanks all our donors for their generosity in helping us continue this program.



### **Nowgong Mission School - Audio system for Miles Bronson**



AFNA pitched in for this historic school in Assam to help procure and install an audio system in its auditorium. This is the 3rd oldest government school in Assam. It was established by Rev. Miles Bronson, one of the pioneers of the American Missionaries in Assam. Rev. Miles Bronson is highly respected in Assam due to his contribution towards Assamese language. He is credited for bringing in recognition to Assamese as the official language of the state and for setting up printing press to produce Assamese books in.

The school needed an audio system for its auditorium aptly named after Rev. Bronson. AFNA donated \$3300 for this purpose which covered around 70% of the project. The rest was sourced locally in Assam. The system was first put to use on the pre-Christmas celebration as you can see in these photos. We extend our gratitude to all our donors and volunteers who helped us to raise this fund and bring this to a successful completion.



*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.*