



# October Newsletter, 2017

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## SHED a successful collaboration of AFNA under SAC project

SHED is a story of success gained over almost 10 years of partnership and sustained support by AFNA. SHED was started in a small shed in the front yard of the rented home of the founder, which later moved to its own land in the outskirts of the city. Slowly they built permanent classrooms and hostels in that land. AFNA is proud to be with SHED throughout this journey.

		
The small shed in 2007	Bamboo classrooms in its own land, 2013	Concrete classrooms, 2016

Today, SHED has 72 students in the school with various degree of special needs. 23 of them are resident of the school staying in its Girls' & Boys' hostels. SHED runs five classrooms, mostly to cater to different form of special needs. Once someone is ready for a normal life, they are integrated into regular schools.

A recent success story in SHED is Ms. Olympia. She came to SHED with learning disabilities, SHED teachers put in efforts to teach her basic skills. It took seven months for her to be able to hold a pencil. But after three years, she was almost ready for normal school. Her parents put her in a normal school in Class 1 and recently she graduated from class 1 and moved to class 2.

Apart from various onetime grants to procure land, build kitchen AFNA has been providing support to SHED under its Support A Child program. With this AFNA has taken the care of nearly half of the total annual cost to provide food and accommodation to SHED's 23 boarders (\$3000/year). Most of the boarders come from a very poor background with families having no means to provide for a special child. SHED employs three special educators cum care takers and a cook for a healthy and safe environment for the boarders. Here is a snapshot of one of its boarders.



Ms. Dibya, now 10 years old, was diagnosed with a case of hearing impaired with mild intellectual disability. She comes from an economically poor single parent family background from Kamrup (Rural) district in Assam. Her parents had initially tried to get help for her but with limited income it was going nowhere. Then her father left (expired) her and her family when she was only 6 years old. Her mother worked in the small shop to feed the family. The helpless mother, empty handedly, but with an optimistic view, made their appearance at SHED and briefed about their anguish. SHED consoled them and assured that SHED would take the responsibility for her. She was admitted to SHED special school as a hosteller, she has been provided free of cost education, lodging and boarding facilities at SHED. AFNA is looking forward to support many children like Ms Dibya at SHED and this holiday season we hope that our generous volunteers and donors will open their hearts to donate for supporting SHED.

<p><b><u>Volunteer Email DL:</u></b></p> <p>Subscribe to afna-vols@freelists.org at freelists.org/list/afna-vols</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter Team</u></b> Lipika Deka and Pallav Saikia</p> <p><b><u>Contributors Of Articles</u></b> SHED update: Pallav Saikia</p>		<p><b><u>Get Involved:</u></b></p> <p><b>Monthly volunteer call:</b> First Sunday, every month, 10am - 11am PT Dial in: 641-7153272 Access Code - 457920#</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>DONATE Online</b></p>
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# AFNA 2018 Calendar Drive

Calendar Drive is one of AFNA's main year end fund raising events that helps to start our 2018 projects with new energy. This year the calendar is looking beautiful with amazing pictures from Assam, USA and Canada; pictures are contributed by several very talented photographers from our communities. The cost of a calendar is \$9.00 with a request of donation of any amount that you would like to donate towards any of our projects. In general, we ask you to donate \$20 for a calendar to support various projects. Alternatively, you can donate \$25+ with an option of becoming AFNA member to join our non-profit organization that will uplift your spirit by helping people in need through various projects. Please order your copy of the calendar at <https://goo.gl/forms/o2pUzbYGI6lXmeTi2>. By ordering before November 30<sup>th</sup>, you can get free shipping including shipping to Assam. Information about payment methods are available on the form. You can also request a copy by emailing your local AFNA volunteer. Here is a preview of the calendar this year.



## SENEH received Regional Spirit of Humanity Award

On September 14, 2017, the eighth edition of Spirit of Humanity felicitated NGOs from across India. The event recognized 23 regional winners and awarded 6 National winners, which were shortlisted from over 300 entries. Seneh (Bhavada Devi Memorial Philanthropic Trust) is recognized as a regional(East) winner of Spitit of Humanity Award under the Women Empowerment section. AFNA is very proud of Seneh's achievement and congratulates the Seneh team for their hard work. AFNA's new successful initiative "Adopt a Grandma" is to support Seneh to continue its amazing work.



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