



AFNA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

THE SPRING EDITION

2023 Look Ahead

We hope everyone had a great start to the year 2023 and looking ahead to the spring festivities & Rongali celebration.

We would like to take a moment to remember those who we lost in the last few months. Our AFNA family was shocked and heartbroken to hear about the sudden loss of the Chair of Board of Directors (BoD) & long time AFNA volunteer Dr. Debabrata Sarma and one of our founding members & volunteer Mr. Barada Sarma. AFNA is a better and a stronger organization today because of volunteers like them. We will be ever grateful for the pivotal role they played. Our thoughts & prayers are also with the family of our past president Satyajit Nath & his family, who recently lost his mother Suprabha Nath of Assam.

We wrapped up the year 2022 by distributing the 2023 calendar, which featured artwork from winning artists from an art contest held to commemorate the 40th year of service for AFNA. We are hearing great reviews about the artwork that were submitted from all across North America & India. AFNA has also contributed to the relief efforts for the devastating earthquake in Turkey & Syria. We are also preparing for our next fundraiser “7 Days of Giving” during upcoming Rongali bihu & requesting everyone to contribute to make it a success.

As we look ahead, here’s a brief update about the ongoing & new projects:

The Amrapari Project: An initiative started to provide sustainable livelihood to Sixty women from the Char-charpori area in the Barpeta district of Assam. It is a project supported by the Non-Profit Organization- Foundation for Social Transformation (FST). AFNA has provided the funds to support their activities such as training, market participation, procurement of raw materials and production process. The training for two batches of women workers is complete and training for the third batch of women is scheduled. The workers had market orientations to become familiar with sales. Market linkage was established by taking part in the Kalakriti exhibition. For the future AFNA will assist with FST’s agenda of:

- Worker Training and design quality improvement
- Training for Master Trainers
- Procurement of raw materials purchase of sewing machines required for production.

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**Please send your
feedback to AFNA at:**

<https://forms.gle/fSMMJnDt08UnPqiV7>

Cachar Cancer Hospital: AFNA volunteers are collaborating with Cachar Cancer Hospital for the support of patient care. It will provide the funds for the purchase requirement of an Automatic Blood culture and ID- AST System which will reduce the patient testing time and results from 70-80 hours to 12 to 18 hours.

Parijat Academy: AFNA will continue its affiliation with Parijat Academy and provide funding once the school has an approved FCRA. In the meantime, volunteers & well-wishers are encouraged send their donations directly to their organization (please contact us for details).

AFNA Disaster Relief: AFNA will continue the relief work in Assam, the USA & globally as needed by donating in disaster times through trusted partners. AFNA is also committed to find long term & effective solution for the flood related issues in Assam. Our volunteers are working with specialized programs, like “Weaving for Care“, to give during inclement weather conditions such as earthquakes, storms and typhoons to provide relief.

Donor funding Appeal and Acknowledgement: We will continue to raise funds from AFNA donors for programs such as AKADAMICS, Support a Child (SAC), Support A Grandma, Sishu Sarothi and others by giving donors and volunteers quarterly project updates through websites and other social media. AFNA is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA: <https://presidentalserviceawards.gov/>). Our volunteers are encouraged to track their hours to be eligible for the annual & lifetime achievement awards.

Our next General Body Meeting (GBM) will be held on 24th June, please join the meeting to hear more details of these & other projects and continue to bless & support AFNA.

On behalf of everyone at AFNA, I once again extend our sincere thanks to the donors and volunteers. We always welcome new ideas and new members, please join & continue to help us serve! We would love to hear feedback from our donors, volunteers & well-wishers as we strive to serve the community in a more efficient & effective way.

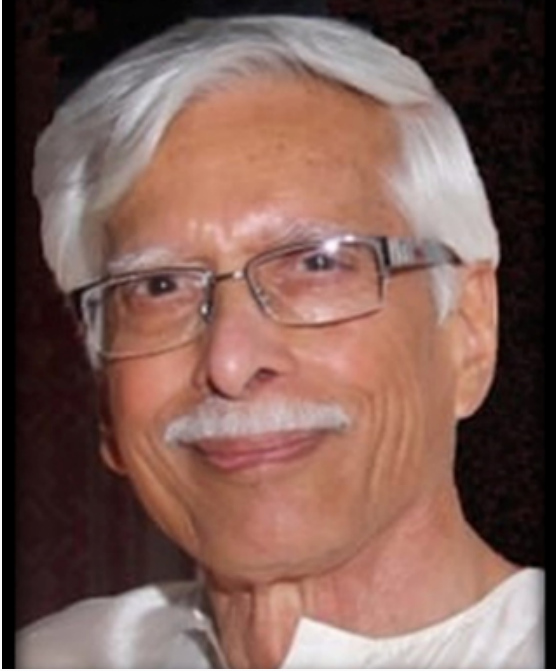
Join us for our annual GBM virtually on June 24, 2023

AFNA is planning our 2023 GBM again virtually on Saturday, June 24. Please join us to learn about AFNA's projects and initiatives for the year 2022-2023 year. We will continue with the virtual format as it provided an opportunity for more volunteers and donors as well as interested people around the globe to join our GBM. We hope you will join us virtually & also drop by our desk in the 2023 Assam Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

**Stay tuned for more
information and the zoom
link.**



আমেৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া সমাজৰ এজন বিশিষ্ট গুৰি ধৰোঁতা ডঃ দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মালৈ শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলী



১৯৪৩ চনত তেজপুৰত জন্মগ্ৰহণ কৰি ২৭ বছৰ বয়সত কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা ডক্টৰেট ডিগ্ৰী লাভ কৰা ডঃ দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মাই কৰ্ম জীৱন আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল অধ্যাপক হিচাপে। কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় আৰু খড়্গপুৰ আই আই টিৰ প্ৰায় দহ বছৰ অধ্যাপনা কৰাৰ পাছত ১৯৮০ চনত আমেৰিকাৰ চিনচিনাতি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত যোগদান কৰি ১৯৯০ চনত ৰুটগাৰ্ছ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় Director of Computer Scienceৰ দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰে। শেষত তেওঁ ১৯৯৪ চনত Microsoftত Software Engineer হিচাপে সোমাই ২০১৭ চনত তাৰপৰাই অৱসৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰে। আমেৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া সমাজখনৰ গুৰি ধৰোঁতা ডঃ শৰ্মা দেৱৰ, যোৱা ২১ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী ২০২০, মঙলবাৰে, গুৱাহাটীৰ শিলপুখুৰীত, হঠাতে হৃদৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈ পৰলোকপ্ৰাপ্তি হয়। পত্নী জুৰি শৰ্মা, পুত্ৰ সত্যম শৰ্মা, বোৱাৰি জুলি চন্টোচুৰচৰ লগতে বহুতো আত্মীয় স্বজন আৰু বন্ধুবৰ্গক এৰি, অসম আৰু অসমীয়াৰ বাবে সদায় কাম কৰি যোৱা অসমী আইৰ এই সু-সন্তান গৰাকীয়ে অসমী আইৰ কোলাতেই চিৰ নিদ্ৰাত মগ্ন হয়। তেখেতৰ বিদেহী আত্মাৰ চিৰশান্তি কামনা কৰি তেখেতলৈ শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলী যাঁচিছো।

মানুহজনক দেখিলেই সন্মান ওপজে, মনলৈ কিবা যেন এক প্ৰশান্তি আহি যায়। ওখ পাখ, সদায় ফিটফাট, বগা মোচ কোচাৰ তলতে অনবৰতে এটা যেন মৃদু মিঠা হাঁহি। শান্ত ভাৱে লাহে লাহেকৈ কোৱা কথাবোৰ - দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ কথা, সমাজৰ কামৰ কথা, স্বাস্থ্যৰ কথা, খাদ্যৰ কথা, ফুলৰ কথা, Seattleৰ আশে পাশে থকা ধুনীয়া ঠাই বোৰৰ কথা, ৰাজনীতি-ভূগোল-বিজ্ঞান-বুৰঞ্জী-সাহিত্য-সংস্কৃতিৰ কথা, হাঁহিৰ খোৰাক যোগোৱা ধেমেলীয়া কথা...জীৱনৰ মুহূৰ্তবোৰ সজীৱ কৰি, অমূল্য কৰি তোলা এনে কথাবোৰ পাতিবলৈ, শুনিবলৈ ফোনটোৰ সিপাৰে যে সেই চিৰ প্ৰশান্ত মাতটো আৰু কেতিয়াও শুনিবলৈ নাপাওঁ, কথাতো মনলৈ আহিলেই মনটো সেমেকি উঠে। মোৰ বাবে, আমাৰ পৰিয়ালটোৰ বাবে ডঃ দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মা ওৰফে দাবু দা এজন সকলো দিশৰ পৰাই বিশেষ মানুহ আছিল। অসমত আপোনজন এৰি আহিছিলোঁ যদিও ইমান দূৰৰ দেশখনত তেৱেই আমাৰ আপোনজনৰ অভাৱ পুৰাইছিল। আৰু সেই সূত্ৰে আমাক আমেৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া সমাজ খনত সক্ৰিয় ভাবে জড়িত হবলৈ সুবিধা কৰি দি অনুপ্ৰেৰণা যোগাইছিল। এটা যেন বৃহৎ পৰিয়ালৰ অংশিদাৰ কৰি লৈছিল।

এইখন সমাজ আৰু ইয়াৰ বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠান আৰু সংগঠন - অসম অধিবেশন, Assam Association of North America (আনা), Assam Foundation of North America (আফনা), Assam Sahitya Sabha of North America (আচনা) - সকলোবোৰ গঢ় দিয়াত আৰু আগুৱাই আনি আজিৰ পৰ্যায় পোৱালৈকে তেওঁ এক বিশিষ্ট ভূমিকা পালন কৰি আহিছে। তাৰ মাজতেই এই অনুষ্ঠান বোৰলৈ নতুন প্ৰজন্মক আগুৱাই অনাতো তেওঁ আগ ভাগ লৈছিল। আৰু তেনেকৈয়ে, যোৱা শতিকাৰ শেষৰ ভাগত, সমাজৰ কল্যাণকামী সংগঠন আফনাৰ গুৰু দায়িত্ব মোৰ ওপৰত জাপি দিবলৈ তেওঁ মোক যোগ্য বুলি বিবেচনা কৰাৰ বাবে মই তেওঁৰ ওচৰত চিৰ কৃতজ্ঞ।

আমেৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া সমাজৰ এজন বিশিষ্ট গুৰি ধৰোঁতা ডঃ দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মালৈ শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলী

আজিৰ দিনত, তেওঁৰ বয়সৰ বেছিভাগেই সমাজ-সংগঠনৰ দায়িত্ববোৰ নতুন প্ৰজন্মলৈ আগবঢ়াই দি এনে কাম বোৰৰ পৰা স্বাভাৱিক ভাৱেই অব্যাহতি লৈছে। কিন্তু দাবুদাই এই কামবোৰত এতিয়াও সক্ৰিয় ভাৱে অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰি আছিল। আশি বছৰ বয়সতো, এই বছৰৰ আফনাৰ কেলেণ্ডাৰ খন তেওঁ পুংখানুপুংখ ভাবে proof-read কৰিছিল। আফনাৰ মাহেকীয়া volunteer meetingত, দাবুদা যোৱা মাহলৈকে সদায় উপস্থিত। দান বৰঙণিৰ ফালৰ পৰাও আমেৰিকাৰ অসমীয়া সমাজ আৰু এই সমাজ খনে কৰা জনকল্যাণমূলক কামত তেওঁৰ যথেষ্ট অৱদান আছে।

এই মানুহজন যে আজি আমাৰ মাজত নাই, কথাটো মানি লবলৈ মোৰ মনটোৰ বহুত কষ্ট হৈছে। মনত পৰিছে, কিমান আগ্ৰহেৰে তেওঁ আমাক Seattle ত ফুৰাইছিল, Mount Rainierলৈ ঘন কুঁৱলীৰ মাজেৰে গাড়ী চলাই লৈ গৈছিল, Torontoত এখন বিয়ালৈ যাওঁতে নানান খুহুতীয়া কথাৰে আমাক আমোদ দিছিল, অসম অধিবেশনত কৰা ভাওঁনাত কেবাবাৰো সুন্দৰ অভিনয়েৰে ৰাইজক আপ্লুত কৰিছিল, একমাত্ৰ পুত্ৰ তুপুলৰ বিয়া খন প্ৰতিজন অতিথিৰ বাবে চিৰস্মৰণীয় কৰি আয়োজন কৰিছিল, তেওঁৰ ল'ৰালিকালৰ কলিবাৰী তেজপুৰৰ ঘৰখনৰ স্মৃতিবোৰ আমাৰ লগত ৰোমন্থন কৰি সজীৱ কৰি তুলিছিল।

যিকামেই নকৰক তেওঁ নিপুনতাৰে কৰিছিল - photography, ৰন্ধা-বঢ়া, গীত মাতৰ পৰা চিলাই-পাতিলৈকে। তেওঁ আৰু তেওঁৰ পৰিবাৰ জুৰি বৌৰ অতিথি পৰায়ণতাও অনুকৰণীয় - ভূপেন হাজৰিকা-বীৰেন দত্তৰ পৰা জুবিন গাৰ্গ-বৰ্ণালী কলিতা লৈকে অসমৰ পৰা অহা বিশেষ অতিথি সকলক কি যে এক আন্তৰিক ঘৰুৱা পৰিবেশেৰে আদৰ সংকাৰ কৰিছিল। ঘৰৰ ফুলনিখনত তেওঁ নিজে ৰোৱা ধুনীয়া ধুনীয়া ফুলবোৰ সকলোকে দেখুৱাই বহুত সন্তোষ লভিছিল।

সেই ফুলবোৰে জানো বুজিব, সিহঁতক আলপৈচান ধৰিবলৈ যে এই মানুহ জন আৰু কেতিয়াও নাহে।

আমি বোৰেই কৰিব লাগিব এই খালি থাই পূৰণ। মৰম কৰিব লাগিব ফুলক। আশুৱাই নিয়াত আগ ভাগ লব লাগিব অসমীয়া সমাজ খনক। দাবুদা দৈহিক ভাৱে আমাৰ মাজত নাথাকিলেও আমাৰ মাজেৰেই তেখেত সদায় জীয়াই থাকিব - আমাক দি যোৱা সংস্কাৰেৰে, সমাজৰ হিতাৰ্থে কাম কৰি যাবলৈ নতুন প্ৰজন্মক দি যোৱা অনুপ্ৰেৰণাৰে।

KRISHANU KAUSHIK 

A Tribute to Dr. Debabrata Sarma

Dr Debabrata Sarma, son of late Hem Chandra Sarma and late Bina Sarma breathed his last in Guwahati on February 21 due to a cardiac arrest. His father, a reputed Indian Revenue Service officer, always laid emphasis on pursuit of academics and sports side by side, and Debabrata, his obedient eldest son, did not fail him. He graduated from Cotton College with Honours in Physics and then obtained BTech and MTech in Radio Physics and Doctorate from Calcutta University. He taught in Calcutta University and IIT Kharagpur before moving on to the US as an associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati. Later he worked as a Director at Rutgers University before joining Microsoft. He retired from Microsoft in 2017, from a very senior level.

He was also a cricketer, swimmer, tennis player, photographer, painter and keen gardener. He evinced interest in all surroundings and novel things and that's why he was such a good conversationalist. A charismatic and contented personality, he found humour in every small thing. A thorough gentleman and a people's person, he was a confidante, philosopher and guide to many.

Hailing from Brahmaputra, Mangaldai, he settled in Seattle, US, yet his love for his birthplace Assam and the spirit of Assamese sub-nationality was inherent in him. In the US, he was pivotal in holding together the Assamese community in many ways.

It is extremely painful to write an obituary for one's elder brother, who had taken over the mantle of a father figure over the years. He was the one who introduced me to the engineering line, and taught me the importance of being able to visualize a technical formula in physical reality to find solutions to problems. I take immense pride in being his younger sister and what I am today is because of his early mentoring. A pious soul, he was an ardent devotee of Goddess Durga, a legacy he inherited from his forefathers.

Rest in peace dear Dabu da and may God give strength to Juri bou(Jayashri)and Tupul (Dr Satyam) to bear this heartbreaking and unexpected loss.

UTPALA SHARMA 

A Tribute to Dr. Debabrata Sarma and Barada Sarmah

Our Community grieves at the loss of two stalwarts of our North American Assamese. community – Barada Sarmah and Debabrata Sarma.

Barada Sarmah was one of the founding members of Assam Association of North America (AANA). He was an active participant in the meeting in Houston, TX in 1970 that led to formation of AANA, and also the creation of our 501(c)(3) community entity–the Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA). He was a regular presence at our Conventions.

Debabrata Sarma, who came to USA later, quickly became a doyen of our Community, and remained very active in all of our community activities, often taking leadership positions at both organizations, including presiding over Assam Conventions and serving on the Boards as Governors/Directors over the years.


Their presence at the Assam Conventions and regional diaspora gatherings was always a welcome sight. We will sorely miss them, particularly their wise counsel and guidance in directing actions of our diaspora. Their legacy will continue to guide us in the years ahead. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

DR. MONORANJAN BEZBARUA 

বিশ্বজুৰি বিৰাজমান, বিশেষকৈ উত্তৰ আমেৰিকাৰ, অসমীয়া সমাজৰ দুজন মুখ্য সদস্য, অতি আদৰ আৰু সন্মানৰ বৰদা শৰ্মা আৰু দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মাৰ মৃত্যুত আমি সকলোৱে হিয়াভঙা দুখ পাইছো। যোৱা কেইবা দশকজুৰি দুয়োগৰাকীয়ে আমাৰ সমাজৰ সমহুৱা কাম-কাজত আগশাৰীৰ নেতৃত্বৰে আমাৰ পথ প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰি আহিছিল।

আমি তেওঁলোকৰ অতুলনীয় সমাজ সেৱা আৰু অসমবাসী ৰাইজৰ প্ৰতি দেখোৱা নিষ্ঠাৰ বাবে আমাৰ ধন্যবাদ আৰু শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলি আগবঢ়াইছো।

আমাৰ সকলোৰে ফালৰ পৰা তেওঁলোকৰ বিদেহী আত্মাৰ প্ৰতি নমন আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ পৰিয়াললৈ আমাৰ হিয়াভৰা সমবেদনা জনাইছো।

ড° প্ৰদীপ দাস 

A tribute to Srimati Suprava Nath



Srimati Suprava Nath, mother of long-term AFNA volunteer, Satyajit Nath (of Seattle, WA), passed away on 22nd February in KGMT Hospital. She was 78. She was a long term resident of South Sarania, Guwahati. Suprava Nath was born in Mangaldoi and studied PU in Handique College, Guwahati. After marriage, she completed her BA with Distinction in Assamese from Nagaon College. She was an accomplished multi-faceted artist who published a novel in Assamese, three poetry collections with Assamese and English poems, two children's stories, and several Assamese poems in literary magazines, including recent issues of Luitor Pora Mississippi . She also painted over 250 unique watercolors, each inspired by the individual melodies of Ustad Mehdi Hassan's ghazals. This unique collection of art is appreciated by art and music lovers everywhere. She was married to late Sri Satish Kumar Nath, retired Commissioner Secretary to the Government of Assam, Flood Control department. She's survived by a son, a daughter, their families, and an extended family throughout Assam and elsewhere

Adapted from the previously published obituary in Assam Tribune

AKADAMICS - PROJECT UPDATE

The applications opened for the 10th year of this scholarship on Jan 01, 2023 and so far a few hundred application have come in. The applications normally close in April 30, 2023. However, the stewards are considering extension as the school session in Assam is running behind schedule. This program has so far awarded 234 scholarships and 191 have successfully graduated with the support from this program. Last with a generous donation from the family of Late Habibur Rahman, two scholarships for students from Assam Engineering Colleges were instituted and two very deserving students have already started receiving their scholarship. AFNA and the AKADAMICS program are extremely indebted to the Rahman Family for this very generous gesture.

Sarfaraz Taher

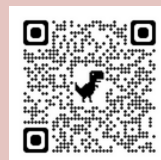
Want to join us?

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INFO@ASSAMFOUNDATION.NET

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SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



Parijat Academy Update

Parijat Academy in Pamohi near Guwahati is quite well known to many of us. Many of us have interacted with Uttam Teron, its founder or have visited the academy while we are in Assam. This school has a special place in our heart. It was started by Uttam in 2003 when he started gathering the kids in the neighborhood to teach. Most of these kids were either school dropouts or never went to a school and would just spend the day wandering about. Uttam's work with the kids gained momentum as words started spreading like wildfire about teaching kids differently. Kids kept on coming to Uttam's place whom Uttam could not refuse to teach. As the number of students kept on growing, it eventually took the shape of a proper school. Uttam started building out the school in his own property that today runs with 19 teachers having classes from early education to Class X. Over the years, it has also hosted many international volunteers who supported the school and also the neighboring villages.

AFNA has been involved with Uttam & Parijat Academy since its early years, providing support and carrying out multiple projects. Today, we want to highlight that Parijat Academy is facing some financial hardship as it has been struggling to pay salaries to its teachers since the COVID-19 lockdowns. As Parijat Academy does not have an FCRA clearance from India Govt, it can't accept any direct grants from AFNA or other organizations based outside India. It can, however, receive individual donations from all over the world.



PALLAV SAIKIA

We appeal to our patrons & donors to consider providing support to Parijat Academy directly to help it see through the current crunch period.

Any amount large or small will help. Currently it needs INR2,00,000 a month to support its operations that covers teachers' remuneration and student mid day meals.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECTLY TO PARIJAT ACADEMY:

Bank : State Bank of India
Account name: Parijat Academy
Account no. 32390709273
Branch: Garchuk
Address: Garchuk, Guwahati 781035
IFSC code: SBIN0005240



AFNA wishes a Happy Rongali Bihu and prosperous Assamese New Year to all it's donors, volunteers, and well-wishers!

Please consider donating during the seven days of Bohag Bihu that will benefit the following seven charities. You may also choose to donate to our general fund.

<https://tinyurl.com/AFNABohag7DaysOfGIving>

- Day 1 (গৰু বিহু): Support A Grandma
- Day 2 (মানুহ বিহু): Education (AKADAMICS and Parijat Academy)
- Day 3 (গোসাই বিহু): Support A Child
- Day 4 (হাট বিহু): Disaster Relief
- Day 5 (চেনেহী বিহু): Support A Disabled Worker
- Day 6 (ৰঙালী বিহু): Social Welfare (Amrapari and Weaving for Care)
- Day 7 (চেৰা বিহু): Environment and the Human Mind

7 Days of Bohag Bihu | 7 Days of Giving

1 গৰু বিহু
Support A Grandma
AFNA's commitment to medical & healthcare expenses for destitute & ailing resident of Seneh, a rehabilitation center for a decent dignified life

2 মানুহ বিহু
Education
AFNA's initiative to award educational scholarships to college students (AKADAMICS) and financial assistance to non-profit school (Parijat Academy) who are deprived but have demonstrated promising academics

3 গোসাই বিহু
Support A Child
AFNA supports the education and health of school-age children in Assam with yearly financial support, stipends or infrastructure development projects

4 হাট বিহু
Disaster Relief
AFNA has regularly contributed towards the relief efforts like Floods in Assam & other disasters in the USA like Hurricanes, Wildfires & Winter Storms

5 চেনেহী বিহু
Support A Disabled Worker
AFNA supports organization like Atma Nirbhar -Ek Challenge that provides gainful employment to differently-abled adults

6 ৰঙালী বিহু
Social Welfare
AFNA's new projects such as Amrapari initiated to provide sustainable livelihood to women in rural Assam and Weaving for care to raise warm clothing to be donated to the homeless and the needy.

7 চেৰা বিহু
Environment and the Human Mind
AFNA supports initiatives that promotes environmental awareness, physical and mental health like Arbor Day, Tree-4-All, Walk-N-Run, International Yoga Day, etc.

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.



Your generous donation and support help us continue our mission!

MAXIMIZE YOUR DONATIONS WITH:



Project: Amrapari-We Can

Amrapari (We Can) is a women's collective that was created during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown as a way of creating sustainable livelihoods for char-chapori women in Assam. Amrapari seeks to support women's empowerment and economic self-sufficiency. This is primarily accomplished by supporting women in making and selling embroidered quilts—a legacy of a traditional skill women who inherit from their mother in char chapori areas in Barpeta districts of Assam. 60 women artisans of 10 livelihoods group who belongs to Char and rural areas of Barpeta District of Assam are identified under the project. The women artisans are part of Amrapari depending on criterion namely their poor economic condition, their skill of traditional kheta stitching.

- Some of the key accomplishments of this project so far have been to enhance the already existing skills, technical expertise and capacity of production of the artisans through training. Two trainings on capacity building of 40 women artisans on design & quality improvement have been conducted in the last few months.
- Exposure visits have been executed to places like Shanti Niketan, Amar Kuthi, Bhubondanga Handicraft Market, Shilpagram, Muluk Gobindapur to acquire knowledge and improve upon the skills of the artisans. From these trips the artisans learned new patterns of stitching on different clothes, some colour combination, new designs, how to improve quality, make better and improved designs as well as how to produce more products at a minimum period of time. They also had an understanding of the market and pricing of the products. Also a trip to Muluk Dakhinpara Kolkata, West Bengal was initiated for the procurement of raw materials.
- Sought to establish market linkages by participating in expo, commercial mela at different parts of India. Amrapari received a bulk order of thirty thousand sanitary cloth napkins by DigiKargha organization based in Delhi. The women artisans are actively involved in completing the orders to meet the dead line.
- The team have closely monitored the activities by frequently updating on the progress and constant feedback and encouraging them to participate in expo, commercial mela for better access to market.

AFNA seeks to help this project by establishing market linkage to generate more revenue for Amrapari and thus help the group to sustain itself in the long run. If we can inform about more market opportunities or interested individuals the project can thrive.



1st batch training of 20 women artisans



Exposure visit to Kolkata