



AFNA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

THE WINTER EDITION

AFNA at the 45th Assam Convention 2024



A big thank you to our Youth Volunteers at Assam Convention 2024 held in Tennessee, USA !

The Assam Foundation of North America thanks its young volunteers for their general participation and for their help in the Assam Convention of 2024. The volunteers helped raise funds; they talked to people about the different AFNA programs and lent their support for the different AFNA causes. We thank young volunteers like Sangeet Borkotoki, Ashwin Hazarika and Taj Bora for their help in the Assam Convention.

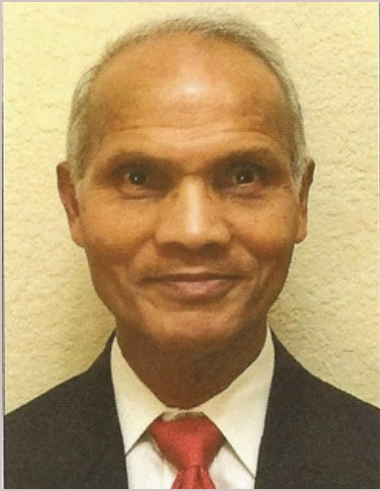


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OBITUARY



MR. LOHIT DATTA-BARUA

With an extremely heavy heart, we mourn the passing away of our dear Mr. Lohit Datta-Barua of Houston. Mr. Datta-Barua played a very vital role in uniting the Assamese community in North America, transforming it into a vibrant and cohesive group. His life journey is nothing short of extraordinary, beautifully chronicled in his memoir, "One Long Journey," first published in 2019. Assam and the Assamese are at the forefront of his mind and that always drove him. While he achieved notable success in his professional career, it was his community service that truly defined him within the Assamese community. As a founding member of both the Assam Association of North America (AANA) and the Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA), he significantly contributed to these organizations over the years, serving as a steadfast advocate for their missions. Beyond his organizational efforts, Mr. Datta-Barua sought to improve conditions in Assam in various other ways, both through personal initiatives and community involvement. He was a man of immense compassion, whose passion for his work was infectious, inspiring many through his actions and ideas.

His active participation in the community enriched the lives of those around him, and countless individuals like us benefited from his wisdom and vast experience. Right up until his final days, he lived life to the fullest, and his absence will be deeply felt within the community. We extend our prayers for the peaceful repose of his soul, and our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

-CHANDAN MOZUMDER & SARFARAZ TAHER

PARIJAT ACADEMY- Project Update

AFNA volunteers have been actively supporting Parijat Academy in Gorchuk, Guwahati, Assam. Parijat Academy (<https://parijatacademy.org/>), one of our oldest and most enduring partners, has faced financial challenges in recent years. Due to the academy's FCRA Certificate being inactive for a period, some AFNA volunteers provided individual support. Recently, upon the reactivation of Parijat Academy's FCRA Certificate, AFNA committed to funding a portion of a year's salary as an immediate contribution to help mitigate their financial difficulties.

Additionally, AFNA volunteers have been assisting the organization by connecting it with other charitable organizations. These efforts successfully secured a significant amount of funding from a U.S.-based organization that supports initiatives in India. Parijat Academy is diversifying its activities to generate funds and achieve self-sufficiency, although this endeavor will require several years. We commend the efforts of their Founder and Head, Mr. Uttam Teron, and his team of administrators in successfully garnering support from other organizations as they work towards sustainability.



AKADAMICS - In Its 11th Year!!

The AKADAMICS program has recently expanded its list of awardees by adding 41 new scholarships. Currently, 108 scholars are benefiting from this scholarship program. The breakdown of the current awardees is as follows:

1. Gender: Female - 34, Male - 74
2. Degrees: Professional - 64, Non-professional - 44

To date, 236 scholars have graduated with the support of this scholarship program. Below are some key statistics:

1. Gender: Female - 104, Male - 132
2. Degrees: Professional - 146, Non-professional - 90
3. Fields of Study: STEM - 164, Non-STEM - 82

The application period for the upcoming year will commence on January 1st and close on May 31st, 2025. Each scholarship provides an annual amount of Rs. 30,000 for scholars pursuing professional degrees and Rs. 10,000 for those pursuing non-professional degrees. Applicants must be financially deprived (Below Poverty Line) and enrolled in a degree program within the state of Assam. Here is the link to more information - <https://www.assamfoundation.net/projects/akadamics>.

[Click Here to know more about this year's winners!!](#)

CACHAR CANCER HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTER

Healthcare is a key focus area for AFNA. We are proud to collaborate with Cachar Cancer Hospital & Research Center (CCH&RC - <https://cacharcancerhospital.org/>), one of our primary partners in delivering healthcare services. Over the past few years, AFNA has supported CCH&RC by funding the acquisition of essential equipment that enhances the speed and accuracy of testing and diagnosis. Timely diagnostics and care are crucial for cancer patients, and advanced diagnostic equipment plays a vital role in this process. Currently, CCH&RC is seeking to acquire additional high-fidelity equipment and AFNA is actively evaluating a proposal to support this highly dedicated organization. Please consider supporting the efforts of this organization through AFNA or directly, as the impact of their work has been very well received by the broader community in southern Assam.

Highlights

- AWARDED TO BELOW POVERTY LINE BACHELOR DEGREE STUDENTS
- RS. 30,000 ANNUALLY FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES &
- RS. 10,000 ANNUALLY FOR NON-PROFESSIONAL COURSES
- FOR MORE DETAILS - [CLICK HERE](#)

Become a volunteer

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, there are many ways you can help - steward a project, do fundraising, keep our website updated, raise awareness among your friends about the foundation's efforts, discuss great ideas for new projects and initiatives - the possibilities are limitless.

Come join us and make a difference!





JOSHUA M

AFNA recently contributed to the Rural Volunteers Center, an NGO from Akajan, Dhemajj, for the construction of boats in this flood-prone area. Five boats were constructed in 2024. Dr. Lohit Datta Barua was a significant contributor, and two of the boats were named after his grandmother according to his request. Below are some photographs of the boats.





AFNA WALK-N-RUN 2024 IN BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA





AFNA WALK-N-RUN 2024 IN HOUSTON





AFNA WALK-N-RUN 2024 IN MICHIGAN





AFNA WALK-N-RUN 2024 IN SAN DIEGO



AFNA WALK-N-RUN 2024 IN LOS ANGELES



Thank you to our Youth Volunteer!



A special thank you to Prerana P. Sarma for her help and support in AFNA's annual Walk & Run project!



ESSAY CONTEST 2024

AFNA is happy to announce the winners of the 2024 Annual Essay Contest. This was the 9th consecutive year of the Essay Contest. To be in sync with the times, the topic for this year's competition was:

"As a child of Immigrant parents, how do you cherish your unique roots being from North-East India? Do you feel the need to maintain the connection, why or why not?"

The winners are:

- 1st Prize (\$250 & Certificate of Excellence)
Ashwin Hazarika, Grade 12 from Columbia, MD
- 2nd Prize (\$150 & Certificate of Excellence)
Arnab Barua, Grade 10 from Cary, NC
- 3rd Prize (\$100 & Certificate of Excellence)
Sonakshee Phukan, Grade 7 from Troy, MI
- Special Mention (Certificate of Excellence)
Akshita Kaushik, Grade 7 from Ground Rock, TX
Ivelyn Deka, Grade 10 from Meadow Grove, NW
Shaurya Deka, Grade 8 from CA

ART CONTEST 2024

The theme for the 2024 AFNA Art Contest was:
"Monuments of Assam (past & present)"

The winner is:
Miraya Sarma (6 yo)
D/o Mitali Devi & Mriganka Sarma
Livermore, CA



Special Mentions



Anish Kalita (8 yo)
S/o Rashmi Bhuyan & Diganta Kalita, Mountain House, CA



Advik Goswami (10 yo)
S/o Monisha & Randhir Goswami, San Jose, CA



Prakash Jyoti deka (22 yo)
Darrang, Assam



Uruli Dutta Bordoloi (10 yo)
D/o Deepika & Unmesh Dutta Bordoloi, San Diego, CA



Sonakshee Phukan (12 yo)
D/o Shrutimala & Shivajit Phukan, Troy, MI

CONGRATULATIONS!!

You may find the winning essays here:



<https://assamfoundation.net/news/essay-competition>

We are grateful to the family of Kamalakshi & Suronjoy Hazarika for sponsoring the prize money of this competition this year. We would also like to thank Kamalakshi Hazarika for her stewardship of the AFNA's Annual Essay Contest.

We would like to thank all those who participated and also their parents for encouraging their child to take part in this annual Essay & Art contests. We also want to thank this year's judges for volunteering their time to review the essays & artwork.

Please continue to participate and help us to spread the word among your friends and in our community so that we can get more participation in the future.

WEAVING FOR CARE - Project Update

The Weaving For care program starts early in the year and concludes by year end. Under this program participants are requested to make a handmade item for charity. AFNA collects all the items made and sends it to a non-profit organization called CARE TO KNIT. Inc in New York. The Weaving For Care project of 2024 has ended. CARE TO KNIT. Inc received all shipments and has shipped to hospitals, shelters and other places. On behalf of AFNA we thank the generous donations of the contributors who have donated to comfort and care through the Weaving For Care Program. We thank our generous donors, Dr. Archan Chatterjee and Srimati Moni Roychowdhury for their donations to AFNA. AFNA has donated over forty-five items of warm clothing to charity.



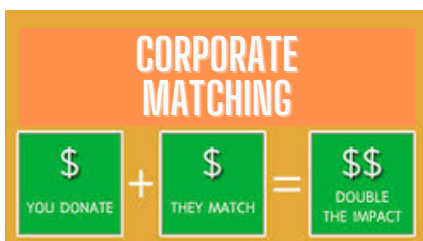
DONATIONS FOR WEAVING FOR CARE PROGRAM - 2024

CALENDAR 2025 - THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

As we welcome 2025, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for making 2024 another successful year for AFNA. Your unwavering support - whether through your time, energy, or generous donations - has made a profound impact on the projects & causes we support. To our dedicated volunteers, thank you for your selflessness and commitment. You are the heart of our organization, and we are immensely grateful for the countless hours you have devoted to our mission. To our generous donors, your contributions enable us to continue our vital work. Your belief in our cause fuels our efforts and empowers us to make a difference.

AFNA is pleased to distribute the AFNA online calendar, fridge magnets and cards to all of you for your kind generosity and continued support to our causes.

MAXIMIZE YOUR DONATIONS WITH:



SUPPORT
FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS IN LOS ANGELES

Fund raising to support the fight against the wildfires devastating the West Coast of the US. AFNA has disbursed \$5000 (20,000 meals) in aid to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. We appeal for your generous contributions to enable us to serve more.

Donate via check or online:
<http://assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

Assam Foundation of North America | assamfoundation@yahoo.com
AFNA is registered under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code with Tax ID # 01-0994468.
Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible in the U.S. to the extent permitted by law.

AFNA has pledged around five thousand dollars for relief to victims in LA affected by wildfire. The drive is still under way; kindly contribute to this cause .

WANT TO JOIN US?!!

CONTACT US: INFO@ASSAMFOUNDATION.NET

DONATE TO AFNA:

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

