

caTELyst

Be the **catalyst** and empower the students

TELuguPeople & you



**TeluguPeople
Foundation**

Newsletter

Summer '17

HELPING UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.

Designer & Composer: Kalyan Boggavarapu

Message from President

Message from Treasurer

Message from Director SE

Visits to Students and Gifts



President's Message

By Prasad Kunisetty

Visiting India

In addition to our Director of Student Engagement Krishna Kotha, our Treasurer Dr Lava Boggavarapu and our Donor and Supporter **Surya Akella** visited some of our students during their recent trips to India. We encourage and request you to visit the students when you visit India by coordinating with our Director of Student Engagement. Your visit will give



them confidence and great moral support. Your mentorship will help them succeed in life. We want you to be their Akka or Anna (elder sister or brother).

Transparency

On the process and transparency front, we started numbering each scholarship. This way every one of you, our followers on Social media and our website visitors will know how many scholarships

we have given so far. You are going to see a lot more numbers in this edition.

9th Anniversary

We successfully celebrated our 9th Anniversary in New Jersey at a much bigger scale on May 20th. All major Telugu media houses including [Eenadu](#), [TV9](#), [TV5](#) covered the event prominently. Video is also available on [youtube](#). As we got a good number of sponsors for the event and for the food, we were able to conduct the event without using any of our donor funds. Let's work together to do a better event next year on our 10th anniversary.

Adapt-a-project

We are also doing several projects under adopt-a-cause scheme in addition to giving scholarships. Please see if you can do something in your area, at your native place back home. Remember, helping someone getting educated will give us creasingly recurring and satisfying results.

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer time!

Big thank you to all the supporters of TeluguPeople Foundation! With all of your support and active participation, we are glad to be bringing the Summer edition of caTElyst in a more informative manner.

Hear from the Donors

Yes, you are now going to read articles from our donors and supporters in this edition and moving forward! You are going to read how **Surya Akella** inspired her daughter **Nandini** to make a donation to TPF on Mother's Day. And you are going to read from **Ananya Vavilala**, who requested people to make a cash donation in lieu of gifts on her birthday and donated all that money to TPF. Also, please see if you can get a sponsor or an advertiser for caTElyst.

Treasurer's report

By **Lava Boggavarapu**

We had a great quarter!

Thanks to the fantastic 9th Annual Celebration event in May, it has been a busy quarter so far. A big **Thanks** to all that have sent in your donations, and a gentle reminder to others to send in your donation if you had pledged earlier and haven't yet had a chance to actually send the donation. You can also donate via our [PayPal](#) button on our website.

The Foundation's Endowment funds at T. Rowe Price continued to do well this quarter thanks to the continued upbeat economic mood in the stock market.

DoubleTheDonation

[DoubleTheDonation](#) tells us that a big chunk of money available at Corporations thru Employee matching initiative is left on the table since many employees are not aware of such a great opportunity. Please check with your employer if they match your donation. We had also updated our website's [Donate](#) page to make it easy to find out if your employer matches your donation.

This Quarter, employees from **Apple, Microsoft, Salesforce, BNY Mellon, Verizon** and **Western Union** donated to us for

Don't Miss out on Easy Money

Though \$2 to \$3 billion is donated through matching gift programs every year, only about 1 in 10 eligible donors match their donations.

Every year, about \$6 to \$10 billion of matched donations is left unclaimed. Since many companies may match up to \$10,000 for every donation, the revenue adds up quickly.

[Find out how it works](#)

MATCHING GIFTS

Click here to see if your employer will match your donation

See if your employer will match your donation!

Enter the name of your company:

Matching Gift and Volunteer Grant information provided by [Double the Donation](#)

the first time and their employers matched their donations. In fact, during a brief period in the first quarter of this year, **Apple** offered a **2 to 1** matching. Does it get any better than that?

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

We received a total of \$11.99 from [Amazon Smile](#), and we owe it to your continued shopping at Amazon Smile. If you haven't already signed up at **Amazon Smile**, please do so and remember to select us as your preferred Charity. **Amazon** donates 0.5% of your purchase amount to us.



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Students Roundup

By Director, Student Engagement - **Krishna Kotha**

We are 9 years old!

It started bearing fruits, a few

**The seed was
sown 9 years
ago. There came
a sprout, then a
plant and then a
tree.**

during early years. The harvest grew every year; this year, our 9th in operation, half a dozen of our students have graduated.

Five out of six are hired right out of college in campus interviews. It's true, they lack the resources the privileged have; but they do not lack the tenacity to succeed.

guests from across Northeast corridor. Many community leaders from prominent organizations, **NATS, TANA, NJTA and TFAS** have graced the occasion and promised their support in future.

Representatives of different partner organizations, **HELP Foundation, Kirds NGO, FirstStep Foundation, i4farmers** were in attendance. Several artists have volunteered to



entertain guests with wonderful performances. The event was covered by mainstream Telugu channels **TV9, TV5** and **eBox TV** and digital media Eenadu and TeluguPeople.com. **NY Life, Sunoco UltraService** and **MoneyDart** have sponsored the event and **Bawarchii Franklin**



enormous support with your presence and with donations. Without your support, we couldn't have dared to undertake the massive task of sponsoring

students for expensive college education and we couldn't have aimed at supporting more. Such presence

reminds us of our responsibility towards donors and students. We will strive hard to meet your expectations in future.

I am proud of our (students) achievements in this short time. Every year, graduation time is an exciting time for us; we wait

Five out of six are hired right out of college campus interviews

Celebrate the success

To celebrate their success, we held our 9th anniversary event on May 20th, 2017 at Rhythms of the Night, Mannville, NJ. The event was attended by more than 250

Park, DesiChef, Somerset and Rangrez Restaurant, East Windsor have served food for dinner.

We would like to Thank everyone, from the bottom of our heart, for attendance, for volunteering, for sponsorship and showing

anxiously, like a farmer waiting in harvest season, for harvest to come home. This is just beginning for our graduates and I am sure they will reach greater heights in their career.

I can't wait to celebrate our 10th anniversary

Scholarships offered during the quarter

We have offered scholarships worth ₹5,25,500 (\$8,147) to 18 students (8 new and 10 existing) for pursuing various courses of higher education. Two of the eight sponsored students lost

companies through campus interviews. We congratulate them on their success and wish them best in their future endeavors.

Progress of present students

Its end of academic year, a busy

page and in our next quarter newsletter

Adapt-a-Student(s)

We came to know of a student in distress during this quarter. She was sponsored for 3rd year medicine, at a cost of ₹250,000, by generous donors of **Snehahasthaalu**. This year, Snehahasthaalu couldn't garner enough support to pay for her

We offered scholarships

₹5,25,500 (\$8,147) to 18 students

their primary bread winner and another is severely ill to care for the family, due to which their families are struggling to make ends meet. Seven students are from either farming or daily wage families with meagre incomes, insufficient to pay for expensive higher education. The new students' profiles can be found on our website at the links here.

[Student 55](#)

[Student 56](#)

[Student 57](#)

[Student 58](#)

[Student 59](#)

[Student 60](#)

[Student 61](#)

[Student 62](#)

time for us and our students. They are beginning to receive their transcripts from last semester and looking forward to enroll in next semester. We started collecting and reviewing their transcripts to track their academic performance and calling students to check on their status. All of them have done exceptionally well, with the exception of three student, who fell short. We are trying to reach out to him to understand reasons for this and will see if he needs any support from us to improve his grades.

Adopt-a-Project(s)

With ground support from our partner organization, **Snehahasthaalu (Friends 4 Helping Hands)** and **FirstStep Foundation** and overwhelming financial support from our donors, we have begun three projects, worth ₹325,740 (\$5,050), during the quarter and they are in progress at the moment. Watch out for more updates on our website, facebook

TPF managed to sponsor a Medical 3rd year student short of ₹100,000

tuition fee and asked us if we could chip in. While the amount is way more than what our guidelines allow for one student, we felt obligated to help her finish her education. We asked if any donor could come forward to offer ₹100,000, the amount she was short of. We found one within a week and paid her 4th year tuition fee. Hopefully, she will not be short again for the next year; but if she does, we will be on standby to support.

Medicine is a noble profession and a doctor could touch many lives during his/her career. It would be a shame for us to not support and cheer for her when she is so close to the finish line. Hopefully, she remembers the support she received during her course of long career and every time she comes across a patient in need.

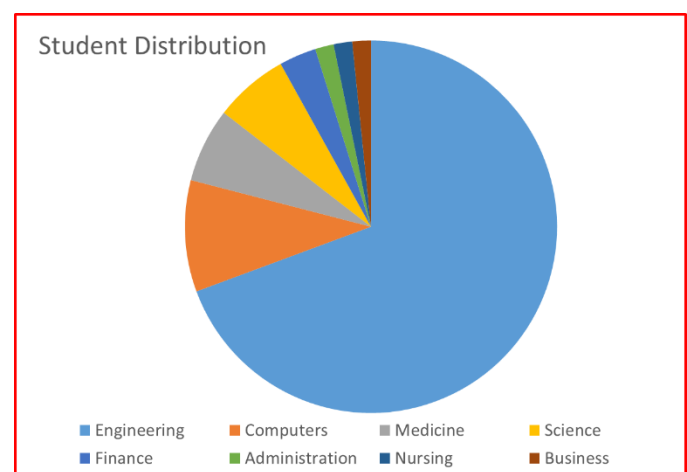
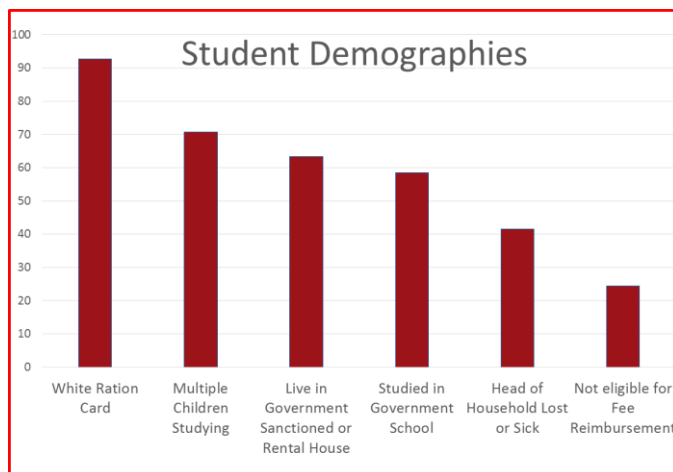
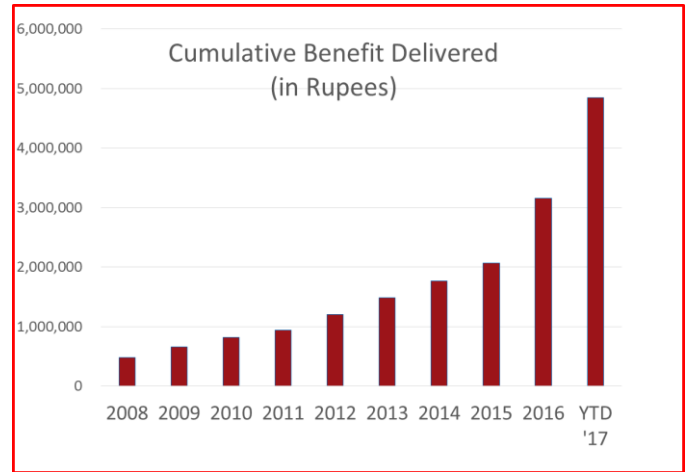
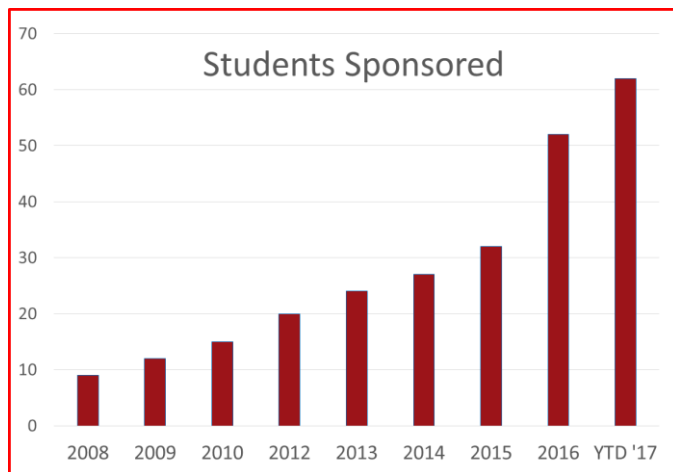
Progress of past students

We are very happy to share that five of our past students are placed in jobs at prestigious

Scholarships at a glance

By Director, Student Engagement - **Krishna Kotha**

Years Established	Students Sponsored	Graduates Employed	Projects Sponsored	Money Disbursed (₹)
9	62	24	7	4,851,191



Visit to students

By Dr. Surya Akella Dhullipalla & Lava Boggavarapu

courses during his

and they were very thankful for our support.

Lava's India Trip

During my recent trip to India, I had the pleasure of meeting 2 of our students. Due to my role in the work flow process, I'm the one that will be disbursing the scholarship amounts, but rarely do I get a chance to talk to them in person during the Financial Scholarship Application Process.

I had the opportunity to meet **Sree Rama Murthy** in Hyderabad. It turned out that he's only 10 days younger than my first born. We had lunch in one of the local restaurants, but neither of us could eat as both of us spent more time talking than eating. Though he was shy in the beginning, he opened up after a little while.

I was impressed that he enjoys Physics and learning new things. I did suggest taking up free Online



Summer Break and I also sent him one of my favorite books: **Richard Feynman's** biography, *Surely, you are joking Mr. Feynman*. He even sent couple of emails on his progress with the book and how he's enjoying the book.

He brought me a bag of mangoes from his village and packet of sweets. Even though I didn't want to take, I did end up taking them after an emotional pitch. Emoluments? 😊 He also invited me to visit his home and which I did. It was a memorable experience meeting his parents

Adopt-a-Student

I, personally, have been supporting a student in Bhopal, through our Adopt-a-Student program. This meeting too was very touching. This student's father is bed-ridden and his mother is the bread winner in their family now. He has lots of energy, ambition and goals. I'm continuing to nurture that energy. This student tutors younger students to make some extra cash and he does manage his time well between his part time job and his studies.



Surya's India Trip

"TeluguPeople Foundation". Let me begin with what excited me first about this title. I have been tired lately hearing from political parties and people around me about the language divide, culture divide, religion divide and many more here in United States and in India and all over the world. **No space in the term "TeluguPeople"**. This term

brought in a sense of unity and peace within me .

Visit to student

Coming back to the actual story, I received a call, one morning from Lava a long-known friend of my husband Krishna a couple of months ago. He spoke to me the

inception, the goals and the nine-year journey of the TeluguPeople Foundation. I heard from him how a group of people came together with the idea of giving back to the society. He then connected me to the passionate Krishna Kotha who told several stories of how the foundation is touching the young lives to aspire their dreams.

Introduction by Lava Boggavarapu

It's not often that we come across such a giving family. After long time I (Lava) re-connected with **Dr. Surya Akella Dhullipalla**, Principal Architect at IBM Watson Health as part of our TPF's elevate-to-the-next-level efforts. She was very touched by what we do and has taken an active role too. Below is the message she received from her daughter on Mother's Day. It speaks volumes.

*"I was perusing different flowers available, the gesture felt so empty and did not convey the gratitude I have for some of the values you shaped in me. Instead, **Anirudh** and I wanted to make a donation to TeluguPeople Foundation for \$100. We know how important this cause and the people are to you, and we wanted you to know that what is important to you is also important to us "*

In my conversation with Krishna, I briefly mentioned that I was going to Hyderabad to visit my family for ten days. He asked me if I would like to meet some of the kids who belong to TeluguPeople Foundation community. I expressed my consent and set off to India. I did not think Krishna would get back to me.

It was about 6 pm in the evening and I was sitting in the portico chatting with my family, I received a call from Krishna if I want to meet **Lalitha** (*name changed to protect the student's identity*) who lives in Nacharam which is only about 4 km from where I was staying. I immediately put that on my "to-do" list.

With Lalitha and her family

I contacted **Lalitha** to schedule a meeting and we met at a

restaurant. I also met her dad who gave her a ride by his scooter. She is a very vibrant young lady and I found no difficulty talking to her due to her extrovert nature.

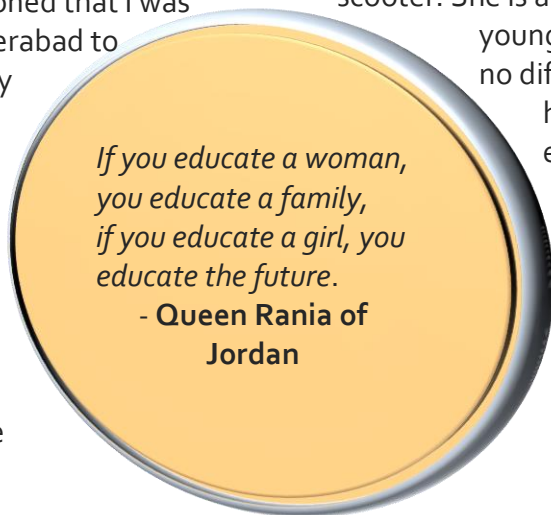
She spoke about her college, her classes, her friends, how she goes about finding opportunities for herself etc...

I liked that positive spontaneous reaction to accommodate her mom and a stranger. We finally reached her home where they live on the 3rd floor of an apartment complex in Nacharam. **Lalitha's** mom and her little brother were waiting for us, though anxiously. Her mother mentioned about her husband's ill health and how the financial help changed their lives. I then assured her mom that she is fortunate to have a responsible daughter by her side.



I found that she was very prudent and was good in networking. She told me how she managed to get a project for herself through her friend's dad's company. When I asked her, if I could meet her family, for a fleeting moment, she was unsure but immediately responded "Let me call my mom and let her know, we are coming. My mom will be nervous if she sees us at the doorstep without informing her."

While I was returning home, inadvertently, my mind was pondering on how TeluguPeople Foundation is indirectly touching the lives of one family here in Nacharam to live in peace and with strong family bonds which is the fabric of the Indian society.



Gift that changes lives

By **Ananya Vavilala**

Hi, I'm **Ananya Vavilala** and I'm currently a 10th grader at Oakton high school in VA.

We had a very small get together for my sixteenth birthday, which was this past month. I have asked all the guests to make a donation to the TeluguPeople Foundation organization.

I did this because we have so many opportunities, and we are so fortunate to be living in this country, that we usually take most things for granted. I just wanted to give back to the community and help others. **I chose to donate to TPF because they help numerous people get into college and be able to afford it.** Since I'm almost at that stage in my life as well, this was a charity I could really connect with. That's the main reason why I chose TPF as the charity to donate to.





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to
support more students.

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us at Students@TeluguPeople.org

Your referral could change the
course of a student's career and
life.

Please send your comments/questions to MediaDirector@TeluguPeople.org

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