

# caTElyst

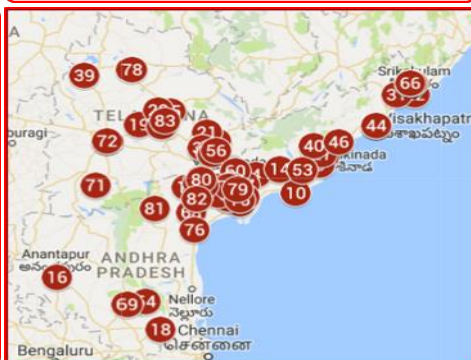
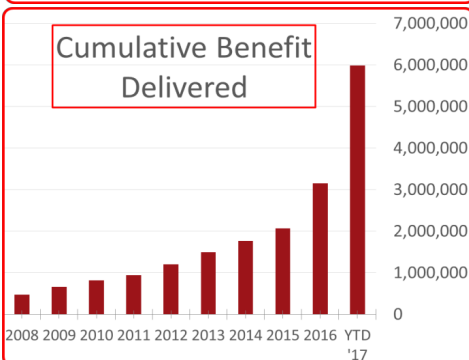
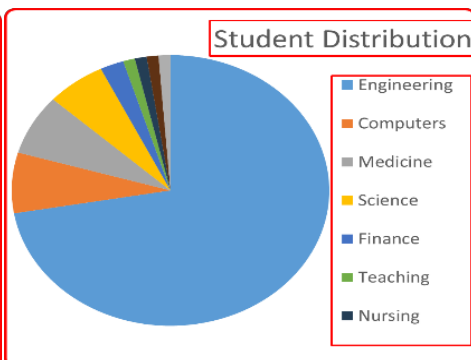
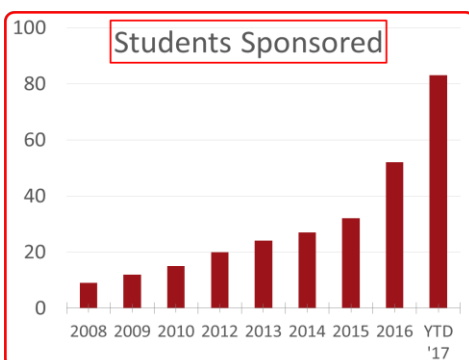
Be the **catalyst** and empower the students  
TELuguPeople & you



## Newsletter

Fall '17

HELPING UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.



Message from President

Message from Treasurer

Message from Director SE

Messages from Donors



# President's Message

By Prasad Kunisetty



**D**ear Supporters with the blessings of all of you Donors and Supporters, we were able to

provide many scholarships to eligible students in this quarter. We were able to help a student that approached us through a non-profit group on social media in a record time. We are getting news from some of our students who just completed their education that they have got a job. That gives us immense pleasure that our efforts were successful.

## Connecting & Collaborating

To create more value for the money we are spending and also for our efforts, we have decided to work with more partner organizations. We have decided to go out and reach out to the larger platforms. As part of that initiative, our Treasurer Dr. Lava

and Director of Student Affairs Mr. Krishna attended NGO Expo 2017 in New York on September 21st taking a day off from their work.



There they got connected with many likeminded people and organizations. Connecting and Collaborating with other organizations can result in huge benefits. For example,



**Youth for seva**

Youth For Seva is an Indian NGO and they have thousands of volunteers signed up to work with any Non-Profit. Their volunteers spread across

India. We are exploring the possibility of providing guidance and mentorship to our beneficiary students using their volunteers.

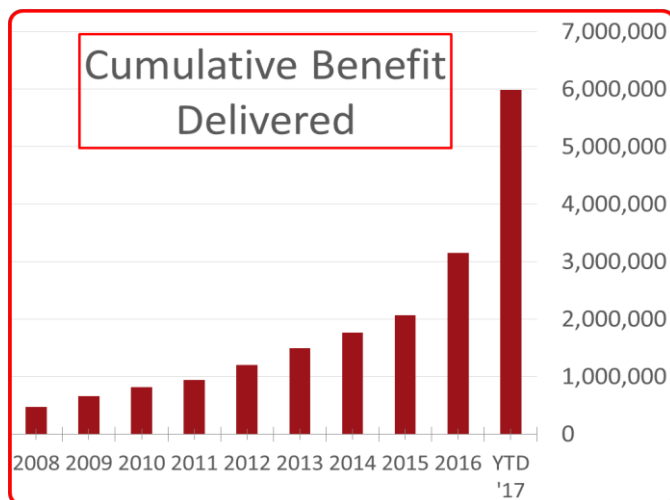
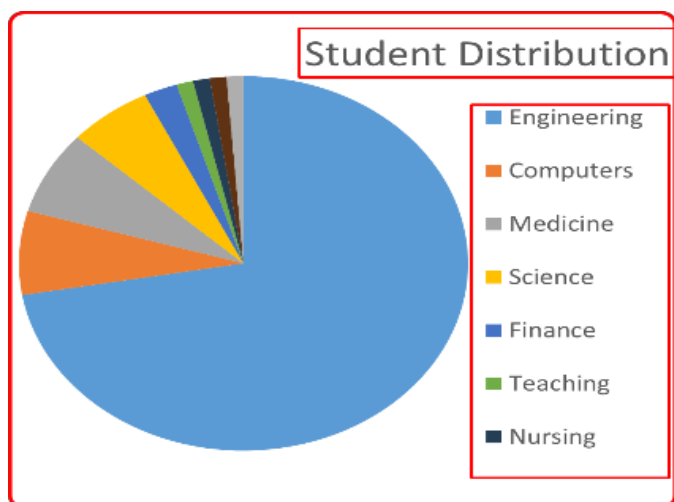
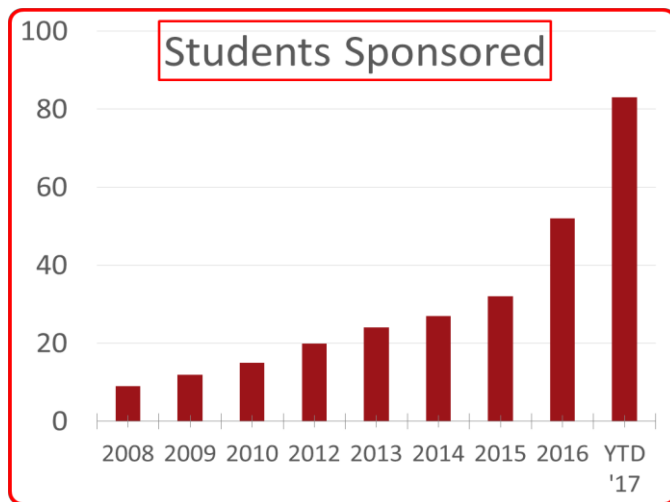
## Requesting all of you!

All I can ask you is to spread the word about us, spread the work we are doing on social media. Tell your friends here in the US and back in our Telugu States. We may get one more donor or one more deserving student in time. I request all of you to think of helping someone in the coming festive season. On behalf of our TPF Board and Executive Team, I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2018 in advance!

# Scholarships at a glance

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

Years Established	Students Sponsored	Graduates Employed	Projects Sponsored	Money Disbursed (₹)
9	83	24	8	5,981,191





# Treasurer's report

By Lava Boggavarapu



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

## Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR, also called corporate conscience, corporate citizenship

***We are getting ready for  
Call-a-Thon on Nov 18th***

or responsible business) is a form of corporate self-regulation integrated into a business model. CSR policy functions as a self-regulatory mechanism whereby a business monitors and ensures its active compliance with the spirit of the law, ethical standards and national or international norms.

With some models, a firm's implementation of CSR goes beyond compliance and engages in "actions that appear to further some social good, beyond the interests of the firm and that which is required by law". From [Wikipedia](#).

This quarter, we were able to get donations from employees from two new companies that match their employees' donations: Google and Biogen!

**amazon**smile

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Prior to making a donation, please check with your employer (usually they have it on your company website) to see if they match your donation. If they do,



please make the donation through that channel.

We continue to receive small amounts 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.

We are on track to double then number of scholarships this academic year compared to last year.

# Students Roundup

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

## Scholarships offered during the quarter:

Summer around us, personally, each one of us is busy with so many social engagements; but we did not forget our obligation to our students. This is exciting (and nervous) time for most students. For students aspiring for college admission, they receive their ranks from admission test and for students in college, they are looking forward to their transcripts from last semester's exams. We have received 49 new applications this quarter, of which

about scholarship program through google search). Of the 28, we have sanctioned scholarships to 22 students and declined 6 as they did not meet the eligibility criteria. We have several applications in various

**Offered scholarships worth ₹ 10,03,000 (\$ 15,671)**

stages of processing at the moment and hope to conclude them in upcoming weeks.

We have offered scholarships worth ₹ 10,03,000 (\$ 15,671) to 33 students (22 new and 11 existing)



either ill or no more to support the family. These are strong indicators that our work is reaching to the neediest families in two Telugu speaking states. It is very inspirational to see students coming from such backgrounds overcome adversities and compete with the privileged. I am sure, they will continue to be hungry for success during and after higher education and will prosper in life and I am

## Grown from Sponsoring 31 Scholarships in 2016 to 51 in 2017 YTD

we have processed 28. To put this number in perspective, we had sponsored a total of new 20 students for the entire year of 2016. This is a phenomenal growth, mostly because of the

for pursuing various courses of higher education. The new students' profiles can be found on our [website](#) at or on our [Facebook page](#). It is worth noting that 50% of our sponsored students are

glad to be witness to their success.

## Progress of present students:

We have approximately 20 students in various stages of their courses from previous years. Since the academic year began in June, we have received requests from 16 students, along with transcripts, for renewal of their scholarship. In general, their performance is exceeding expectations. Most of them received GPA of above class average; some were exceptional. One student stood [1st](#) in her class (she continues to lead the class consecutively for 4 semesters,

## Top 5 in google search results for "telugu students scholarships"

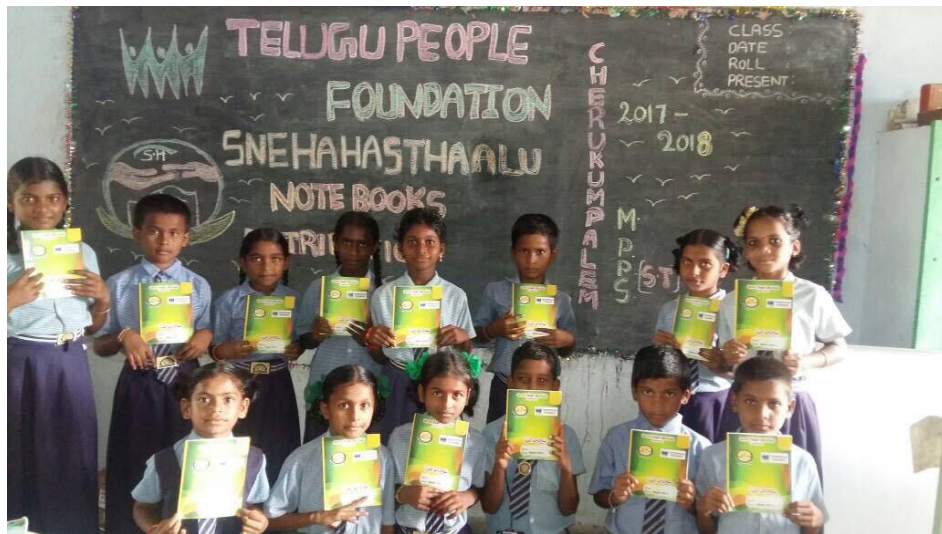
"word of mouth" referrals by many well-wishers and partly aided by our website's search rank on google (Our website is within top 5 results for key words "telugu students scholarships". In fact, many of applicants mentioned that they learned

from government schools / colleges prior to their enrolment in higher education institutions. Furthermore, 94% of the students are from families holding white ration cards. About 50% of the students are from families, where one (or both) of the parent(s) is



she sure is going to be successful,). Three students failed in their semester exams; we have counseled them and advised

✚ Sneha Hastalu - [Notebook](#) distribution  
✚ FSF-[CBM School](#), Burja-Kitchen Infra



them that if their grades don't improve next year, we will discontinue scholarships for subsequent years. Hopefully, they will turn around and improve for the better.

### Adopt-a-Project(s):



With ground support from our partner organization, Snehahasthaal (Friends 4 Helping Hands,) and FirstStep Foundation, we have completed three projects initiated last quarter, impacting thousands of government school / college students around Guntur and Srikakulam districts

✚ Sneha Hastalu - [Govt Junior College](#), Atchampet, Guntur

we enable students to explore their best potential.

Of the several people we met during the event, Sudhakar Pennam garu, founder of Cigniti Technologies Limited, came up with an offer to provide on-site practical training to bridge the skill gap and to get them ready for job market. We are very thankful to him for the offer and promise to come up with a plan within next month.

### Student Engagement Council:

We are pleased to announce formation of a Student Engagement Council on Saturday, September 9th. With the increased flood of applications, we needed lot more hands (and brains) to help us on this journey. We are very thankful to Surya Akella Dhullipalla garu, Naresh Tulluru, Naresh Paridala

for accepting to be mentors of our students. Besides them, my friend Naren Balusu and Saleem Shaik garu also accepted to be mentors for some students; but unfortunately, could not attend

### NRIVA:



We had an exciting event at NRIVA 2017 Global Convention over the Labor Day weekend in Edison, NJ. Visitors of our booth were impressed by our scholarship program and engagement process, by which

the launch meeting. All of mentors were in some way helping us in past refer / screen



students; they have offered additional help so we can impact more students (and families) through our work.

During the meeting, members of the Student Engagement Council discussed various ways to help students improve their skills, levels of confidence. We discussed ways to create responsibility and accountability in the students. We discussed approaches to make the students ready for the real world.

Personally, I enjoy working directly with the students the most. There is so much joy when you hear from students that they got first rank, that they got a job. But with other mentors working with students, I will be focusing on connecting mentors and students effectively so we can deliver highest support for our students succeed. With their participation, I am confident that we will reach our goal of sponsoring 100 students by the end of the year.

### NGO Expo:

Lava and I have attended NGO Expo 2017 in New York on Sept

21, 2017. NGO Expo is a platform to bring NGOs from all over the world, Governments and Corporates together, to exchange ideas, share each other's experiences and find areas and ways of working together efficiently for global good. Besides the pleasure of learning great work happening all over the globe, we had the pleasure of meeting Kiran DM garu of Youthforseva Foundation. Kiran garu is founding member of this organization, whose mission is to help create a nation-wide volunteering movement that inspires youth to volunteer. We talked about areas where we can create bigger impact with collective resources. Kiran garu



was kind enough to lend their resources to help lay path for our student's success.



# Value of Education

By **Navin Boggavarapu**

I grew up neither rich nor poor but always found value in everything I had. I was never deprived of anything I **NEEDED** but never got everything I **WANTED**. I realized very quickly in life the difference between the two and that made me not **WANT** for too much and develop an empathy for people who did not have the basic needs. I feel more fulfilled by helping others, whether it's by donating money, or volunteering my skills to help the lives of others.

One of the basic **NEEDS** in life is education. It should be free but it is not. Education can give you freedom in any walk of life and change yourself and the world.

"Education is the Most Powerful Weapon Which



"You Can Use to Change the World." – Nelson Mandela

My family loves me and helped me celebrate my 50th birthday recently with my friends. Since they know my sentiment, they requested no gifts but donations towards TPF. It is a great pleasure to be part of this wonderful organization that is helping so many people reach their goals.

*Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world*

- Nelson Mandela



# A Dream of Giving Fulfilled

By Peda Kundra

The Alumni of Andhra University (AU) established an organization called Andhra University Alumni for Sustainable Development (AUASD). Prof. MVS Koteswara Rao, an alumnus of AU, wanted to establish a school for poor children, and provide equal opportunities to them on par with the well-bred. Unfortunately, he died due to ill health, before his dream came true. In order to make his vision a reality, AUASD established an elementary school named "Prof. MVS Koteswara Rao Memorial Public School" in one of the biggest slum habitats in Guntur. With the help of alumni, friends, donors and family members of MVS, the school is now providing quality education to 150 poor children. The school is located in



uneducated. The school is now running its second academic year with six classrooms, an office, and toilets for boys and girls.

In order to provide furniture, salaries to teachers, build additional rooms and a

wishers, Peda Babu Kandru and his family members, came forward to donate Rs. 3 Lakhs towards the cost of one

classroom. With the assistance from TPF and Bank of America Employer Matching program, we were able to donate Rs. 2 Lakh last year and the remaining one Lakh Rupees were given to the Principal of the School by Sri Peda Babu Kandru on behalf of TPF in August 2017. In addition, they donated childrens story and reference books to the school library, which are helping the students and teachers.

We are glad to be part of this educational assistance to the poorest of poor in a slum colony close to the new capital of Amaravathi. We have no doubt that these children will enjoy the fruits of education and come out with flying colors. Any additional donations for this noble cause are greatly appreciated. Please contact TPF for further details.



Puchalapalli Sundaraiah Nagar, outskirts of Guntur, where about thousand families are living well below the poverty line and the children are ill fed and

compound wall for the school, the committee is actively seeking donations from charitable organizations. One of our Telugu People Foundation's (TPF) well-

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[here](#).

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