



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

Social & Economic Justice for All

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

PO Box 2287, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008-2287

<http://www.maharashtrafoundation.org>

June, 2015

महाराष्ट्र फाउंडेशन

Year of Establishment: 1978

Lead- Founder Member:

(Late) Mr. Yeshwant Kanitkar

Tax Exemption ID
Under IRS Section
50 (c)(3) 22-2213611
United Way NY, NJ, CT
Agency Code 011675

Board Of Directors:

President: Shaila Vidwans
Tel: (609)-336-7239

Vice President:

Shirish Gupte

Secretary: Snehal Vaze

Treasurer: Avinash Patil

Board Members:

Ankush Karnik
Anjani Gharpure
Pallavee Patwardhan
Vaibhav Sathe

Inside this issue:

Annual General Body 2

Meeting agenda

FCRA and MF Action 3

Farewell 3

MF Financial Report 4-5

A visit of Harish Sadani 6

An outreach effort 6

Meeting with Prof. 7

Bhargaw of AMGU

Project Report 7

Call for nominations for 8

BOD positions

Hello friends,

Some of the recent news was very disturbing. Nepal earthquakes really shook the Indian community residing in India as well as all over the rest of the world. The amount of destruction and the number of lives lost are beyond anyone's comprehension. The aid started to pour in from various agencies. We at Maharashtra Foundation also appealed to our members for help and many came forward. We thank them all. Our aid will be sent specifically for rehabilitation work and we plan to find a reliable local NGO to work with. In the US also Texas got hit by severe storms and floods. Good part of that calamity is , there is not heavy loss of life.

It is that time of the year when we report to our general body. This year's Annual General Body meeting will be held on Sunday, 26th July 2015. The agenda and the audited accounts for the year 2014 are included in this issue of the newsletter. Maharashtra Foundation supports some projects of its own from the general funds. This year also we have received many project proposals requesting funds. These projects will be reviewed by our Projects Committee and selected projects will be funded in 2016. If you have any worthy project that is run by NGO which has FCRA certificate, please send it to us. Our projects that are being funded in 2015 are progressing well.

As an outreach effort, we recently held one event in Chicago area in partnership with local Marathi Mandal. Vaibhav Sathe, Anand and Dipti Sharangpani and Dr. Talathi coordinated a very successful fund raising event with local community representatives. The report is published in this issue.

I would like to share some important information with our donors. Each year Maharashtra Foundation disburses funds to about 100 NGOs. These funds are earmarked donations from donors as well as funds for Maharashtra Foundation supported projects. We routinely check that these NGOs have VALID FCRA certificate at the time of disbursement. We have more information in this issue about FCRA and how we disburse the moneys.

This year, the annual fund raising event will be held on October 24th, 2015 at St. Demetrius Cultural Center in Carteret, NJ. We plan to have some thought provoking speeches, discussion and entertainment for our donors. Please watch for the details of the fund raising event in next newsletter and also on our website.

I will be completing my term on board of directors at the AGM in July 2015. It has been an enriching period and exiting work experience on the board for nine years. To work in professional career and to work in a social /charitable community organization are two very different kinds of work environment. I enjoyed both. I came to know so many kind people, I could develop some very good associations with our donors, made some personal friends, and while working on the board I could develop some skills that otherwise I would not have developed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and current board members and donors. I hope to contribute to the cause of Maharashtra Foundation in the same fashion by being a member of the Board of Trustees.

Thank you.
Shaila Vidwans

Maharashtra Foundation Annual General Body Meeting

Dear Maharashtra Foundation Member,

As required by the constitution, the Annual General Body Meeting will be held on July 26, 2015. All members are invited to attend and participate in the meeting.

The details of the meeting are as follows:

Place: Residence of Shirish and Darshana Gupte
9 Centerville Road,
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of General Body Meeting 2014
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Introduction of BoD members/Ratification of terms
5. Election of new members
6. Project Reports - On-going Projects and New Projects
7. Annual Fund Raising Event in NJ
8. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

Members are requested to send RSVP to MF secretary (secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org) or call 908-534-4894 by July 24, 2015.

It will help us plan the seating and food arrangements.

Yours Sincerely,
Shaila Vidwans

Save the Date

Annual Fund raising event in NJ

MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES Annual Fund raising event in New Jersey

DATE: 24th October 2015 VENUE: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Hall

(Just minutes from Exit 12 of the NJ Turnpike at 691 Roosevelt Ave in Carteret New Jersey)

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and Maharashtra Foundation

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) regulates foreign contributions (monetary donations) and foreign hospitality (e.g. free air tickets and hotel lodging during videshyaatra) received by the following but not limited to NGOs, associations, justices, journalists, and public servants. This is to ensure that foreign contributions do not have any negative impact or detrimental effect on India's electoral politics, public servants, judges, journalists, NGOs, associations etc. Organizations working for definite cultural, social, economic, educational or religious programs can accept foreign contributions and/or donations. However they have to get permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs and have to maintain a separate account book listing donations received from foreign entities. Such accounts must be audited by a Chartered Accountant and submitted to the Home Ministry every year.

Following entities are NOT permitted to receive any foreign contributions: Election candidates, government officials, public servants, print media correspondents, columnists, cartoonists, editors, owners, printers or publishers of a registered Newspaper, or employees of any corporation, or any other body controlled or owned by the Indian Government.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 was passed in Rajya Sabha on 19th August, 2010, with intent to replace the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act of 1976. FCRA 2010 came into effect on May 1, 2011, and has a much broader applicability. FCRA 2010 is amended to remove some inadequacies and practical difficulties in administration of the 1976 Act. Under FCRA 2010, an association is allowed to have multiple bank accounts, but only one account must be utilized for receiving foreign contribution. Furthermore, section 12 of FCRA 2010 specifies the time limit for processing on registration application. The FCRA depart-

ment must process applications within 90 days, and provide reasons for rejections. While the provisions of the repealed FCRA 1976 have generally been retained, FCRA 2010 is has more stringent provisions in order to prevent misuse of the foreign contribution received by the associations. It is the primary responsibility of the recipient organization to obtain the FCRA, it is also a pro-active responsibility of the donor organization like ours to make sure that the recipient organization has a valid FCRA prior to disbursing any funds. Moreover U.S. Department of Homeland Security has placed additional focus on the monies sent abroad under charitable cover. Recent news from India also tells us that many NGOs are under watch-list of Indian Government, as some monies are utilized for purposed other than the charitable projects.

At Maharashtra Foundation, we remain vigilant and take necessary steps to follow the procedures. Prior to sending disbursement checks, we verify that the receiving NGO has a valid FCRA status. We maintain a copy of the disbursement letter, a copy of the check or confirmation of the wire transfer, and a screen shot showing the FCRA validity from the Ministry of Home Affairs webpage (http://fcraonline.nic.in/fc8_statewise.aspx). We are also developing a process to get signed acknowledgments from the NGOs when they receive funds. We also insist on a detailed report of utilization of funds. Since most donations we receive are earmarked to the NGOs of donors' choice, we would like to make the following request to all donors. We ask that all donors make sure that the work done by the NGO is "Charitable" and the funds are not tricked down to other causes. We appeal to and thank our donors for their continued support.

Shaila Vidwans and Ankush Karnik

FAREWELL

After serving on the board of Directors of Maharashtra Foundation (MF), three of the Board members are retired from MF board. Vinata Kulkarni joined MF in 2009. Her main areas of service were working on various MF projects, MF newsletters and maintaining MF website. Her second term would have ended in July 2015. But due to some reasons, she stepped down few months before her term would end. She also was emcee for our fund raisers in the past.

Another, important volunteer Anand Sharangpani joined the board in 2011 and his 3-year term had ended in 2014. MF requested him to stay on board for second term and he stayed for one year. Then he stepped down for other commitments. His great contribution is in Khedkar project, in Harali medical camp as a volunteer and other publicity

efforts is well known by MF community.

A well-known contributor of MF and retiring President Shaila Vidwans joined MF in 2006 and will complete three 3-year terms in July 2015. She joined as a board member, then worked as a treasurer, vice president and president. She did excellent work in all her roles. She also filled in as editor when required. Shaila has been working with many social workers. She has arranged many interviews, talk shows, panel discussions. She has been very diligent in her work as MF's president.

We will miss Vinata, Anand and Shaila on MF Board of Directors and wish them all the best.

Pallavee Patwardhan

Maharashtra Foundation Inc. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014

MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION INC.

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2014

6:48 PM
6/18/15

Accrual Basis

	December 31, 2014
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · Citibank Operating	\$ 593,678.05
1030 · Citibank Imma	\$ 20,108.56
1040 · Bank Of America Checking Acct	\$ 50,000.00
1055.1 · Td Bank America	\$ 393,524.97
1055.3 · Td Bank America 1186	\$ 327,884.12
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 1,385,195.70
Other Current Assets	
1065 · Pay Pal Account	\$ 18,530.10
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 18,530.10
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,403,725.80
Fixed Assets	
2400 · Office Equipment	\$ 10,443.26
2450 · Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (10,443.26)
Total Fixed Assets	\$ -
Other Assets	
Investments change	\$ 95.00
2500 · RJ Investments	\$ 1,818,353.23
2600 · Investment	\$ 1,124.73
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,819,572.96
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,223,298.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accrued Expenses	\$ 6,775.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 6,775.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 6,775.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 6,775.00
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 763,276.82
3000 · General Fund	\$ 279,638.73
3150 · Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 1,160,344.51
3500 · Endowment Fund Life/Patron & Life members	\$ 792,462.31
Net Income	\$ 220,801.39
Total Equity	\$ 3,216,523.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 3,223,298.76

These are AUDITED account statements from our accountant.

Maharashtra Foundation Inc. Profit and Loss statement as of December 31, 2014

6:44 PM
6/18/15
Accrual Basis

MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION INC. Profit and Loss January through December 2014

	<u>Jan - Dec 14</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Direct Public Support	
4010 - Corporate Contributions	29,130.44
4025 - Individual Donations	493,397.80
4030 - Individ, Business Contributions	0.00
4000 - Direct Public Support - Other	0.00
Total 4000 - Direct Public Support	522,528.24
4500 - Investments	
4515 - Capital Gains/Losses Realized L	0.00
4520 - Capital Gains/Losses Unrealized	-3,202.09
4530 - Investment Dividends	62,471.56
4540 - investment income CG Distribute	43,947.65
4550 - Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	955.15
Total 4500 - Investments	104,172.27
4700 - Program Income	
4710 - Membership Dues	26,227.00
Total 4700 - Program Income	26,227.00
4900 - Release from temporrily Restrict	100,000.00
Total Income	752,927.51
Gross Profit	752,927.51
Expense	
5000 - Donations/Disbursements	494,853.83
5500 - Bank Charges	2,133.54
5510 - Investment fees	8,692.07
5600 - Contract Services	
5610 - Accounting Fees	4,750.00
5600 - Contract Services - Other	30.00
Total 5600 - Contract Services	4,780.00
5640 - Fundraising Exp	13,652.06
5700 - Operations	
5730 - Postage, Mailing Service	1,655.31
5740 - Printing and Copying	2,804.75
5780 - Office Exp	2,405.56
Total 5700 - Operations	6,865.62
5800 - Other Types of Expenses	
5810 - Insurance - Liability, D and O	1,149.00
Total 5800 - Other Types of Expenses	1,149.00
Total Expense	532,126.12
Net Ordinary Income	220,801.39
Net Income	220,801.39

These are AUDITED account statements from our accountant.

MAVA Founder Harish Sadani's Visit to United States

Harish Sadani was in US for attending a UN WOMAN conference of The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). One of the flagship events of this year's CSW was the Intergenerational Dialogue. This all-day event was to galvanize the new generation of gender equality activists. Harish Sadani participated in one of the sessions. So Maharashtra Foundation got an opportunity to organize his meetings in the New Jersey area. We hosted him for one week after the conference. On March 11th, we arranged his meeting with Manavi staff members. The picture shows Harish explaining his projects to Manavi staff.

It was a very interesting session for information sharing and Manavi staff was very grateful that Harish Sadani could spend time with them. On March 12th, we held his talk in Princeton University in cooperation with SAAG (South Asian Affinity Group) of Princeton Uni-



versity. Dr. Vinod Gupta and Shachi Gawande from Princeton University helped us coordinate the event. On 15th March 2015 Maharashtra Foundation held an event in Marathi Vishwa Community Center in New Jersey to promote the work of MAVA. "Inside every man, there are two men. One man wants to play the role assigned by the society, the other wants to rebel. One man listens to the voice of the system. The other wants to listen to the voice of his heart. One man holds back his tears. The other wants to cry. One man wants to live behind his mask. The other wants to tear them away. One man wants to dominate the woman. The other wants to befriend her". This was the subject of his talk. MAVA (Men Against Violence & Abuse) is India's first voluntary organization run by men since 1993 to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. The journey of MAVA is to get more and more men come in touch with their 'other' man. The audience was moved by his presentation and spontaneously donated funds to the cause of MAVA. Maharashtra Foundation is supporting one of MAVA's projects during 2015.

Shaila Vidwans

MF Fundraiser In Chicago April 19, 2015

As part of the outreach efforts, Maharashtra Foundation's fundraiser took place in Chicago on April 19, 2015 in association with Maharashtra Mandal Chicago (MMC). It was the Gudhi Padwa event that was attended by almost 400 attendees and the main attraction was the super hit program, "Ayushyavar Bolu Kahi" by Salil Kulkarni and Sandeep Khare. Vaibhav Sathe (Atlanta) and Anand Sharangpani (Ann Arbor) represented Maharashtra Foundation. About \$5000 were raised in pledges and donations in this event. It is very encouraging to see the response from these people



who can do similar fundraisers in the Great Lakes region and spread the word about MF projects. MF would like to thank Sucheta Akolkar, President of Maharashtra Mandal Chicago and

Pankaj Akolkar in organizing the fundraiser on of the prime events with large audience. MF also would like to thank Dr. Suresh Talathi, a longtime supporter of MF vision and philosophy in supporting the fundraiser event. MF will continue to organize similar events in the other cities as part of the outreach efforts. We request the MF donor base throughout the USA to take lead in working with the local organizations to create fundraising opportunities for MF in the other major cities. That is another great way of volunteering for Maharashtra Foundation apart from providing financial support.



Pallavee Patwardhan

Third Generation Maharashtrian youngsters donate to Maharashtra

South Asian American Students Association (SAASA) of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North in Plainsboro, NJ recently held their annual show. Alisha Kaniitkar, Shreya Marathe and Annika Varty participated in the show. They appealed to the student body that the proceeds from the ticket sale should be donated to some charity. Alisha Kaniitkar (grand daughter of MF Founder Yeshwant Kaniitkar) was instrumental to convince the organizers to donate the funds to POTLI project supported by Maharashtra Foundation and run by NGO Pragat Shikshan Sanstha in Phaltan (Satara), Maharashtra. Hats-off to these youngsters !

Meeting with Chandrakala Bhargaw of (AMGU)

Recently I got an opportunity to meet with Chandrakala Bhargaw of Adarsha Mahila Griha Udyog (AMGU). AMGU works for the holistic empowerment of women across their entire life span. AMGU offers vocational training and organizes social awareness programs about women's issues, gender sensitization, and adolescence. Topics such as domestic violence, child marriages,



sexual harassment in the workplace, and child labor are addressed in women's self-help groups. Jidnyasa, a program focusing on "life skills for adolescent girls and boys"

was implemented by AMGU in the district of Latur. Students learn about adolescence, addictions, sex education, AIDS, and human trafficking. She informed me about the progress of the project supported by Maharashtra Foundation. On 20th March 2015, the adolescent girls from the government hostel of scheduled caste girls participated in the 'Jidnyasa' to make them aware of illegal human trafficking. The counselling project is working effectively. The cases are registered, and are solved

properly and the family members are united and are leading happy life. The picture

shows 'Sadbhavana Family Counselling Centre' where Prof. Bhargaw is guiding the animators, adolescent girls and Self Help Group women. The causes and reasons for the problems can be



varied e.g. demand for money or gold from husband or in-laws, mental and physical torture by in-laws or torture by husband because of drinking or other reasons, suspicion of character by husband, the house work done by daughter in-law, illegal relation with other man, quarrel between mother and son for money, torture by step mother, giving birth to girls only etc. Hats off to women like Chandrakala Bhargaw who are doing this type of critical work in Latur area.

Shaila Vidwans

Report on Maharashtra Foundation projects

For calendar year 2015, Maharashtra Foundation selected nine projects amongst over twenty five capable and impactful projects submitted for review and request for funding. The project committee follows the criteria, which includes conditions to be fulfilled as outlined by regulations (valid FCRA), and also ensures that the proposals align with principles and commitments of Maharashtra Foundation. The total funding goal for Maharashtra Foundation sponsored projects was \$71,100, of which \$26,355 has been raised to date. The project committee continues to appeal to Maharashtra Foundation's donor base to help bridge the gap and make projects successful in delivering the planned impact. Information on above projects is available on Maharashtra Foundation's website. The Board of Directors also encourages the donors to reach out in case there are questions or if any additional information is needed regarding Maharashtra Foundation sponsored projects.

Furthermore, the Project Committee follows a defined-stringent process in ensuring success of the sponsored projects. To that end, several members of the Board of Directors remain in contact with the NGO throughout the year. After the initial formalities are completed, which includes, signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by the NGO, agreement of the NGO to the proposed disbursement scheduled, the first disbursement is sent to the NGO.

Around mid-year (May – June), a detailed project report is requested from NGOs in order to ensure there is progress before disbursing any additional funds to the NGO. Such report includes progress, issues, risks, budget update, and organizations spend plan. The final installment (usually around October – November) for one year projects is disbursed after receiving a second progress report. The final report is due after a specified time (project depending) after the final disbursement is made. For multi-year projects, the reporting cycle is extended to cover the entire project time frame.

At this time, the Project Committee along with the Board of Directors, is finalizing the projects to be sponsored during the 2016 calendar year. To that end the committee urges the membership to think about and discuss with the Board of Directors key issues that need to be addressed, and recommend NGOs undertaking impactful, scalable projects that address such issues. As always, it will be imperative for the NGO to have valid registration (FCRA) before their project can be considered for review and funding.

In case of any questions, the Project Committee can be reached at projects@maharashtrafoundation.org.

Ankush Karnik

Maharashtra Foundation

P.O.Box 2287

Church Street Station

New York NY 10008-2287

Call for nominations for positions on the Board of Directors of Maharashtra Foundation

Nominations are invited from members of Maharashtra Foundation (MF) for **TWO** positions to serve on the Board of Directors (BoD) of MF for a three-year term beginning in August 2015.

Only Benefactor members, Patron members, Life members and 2014 annual members are eligible to serve on the MF BoD. Members of the BoD are expected to contribute and participate in the volunteer work related to preparation of appeals for donations, brochures, mass mailing, organizing fund raisers, maintaining accounts, updating mailing lists, updating website etc. It is also expected the BoD members attend monthly meetings.

If you are interested in joining the board please send your relevant Bio data by July 14, 2015 to both email addresses: secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org **AND** vicepresident@maharashtrafoundation.org.

OR please send in your written nomination and a brief bio data to the following address by US mail:

Maharashtra Foundation

c/o Shirish Gupte

9 Centerville Rd. Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

We are always looking for new people with diverse ideas and experience to join the Board. We would encourage all members to consider joining the Board, Charity is involvement. If more than two nominations are received then there will be an election – a true democratic process which we at MF always encourage. All nominations must be either emailed or mailed by US mail on or before **14th July 2015**. Any nomination post marked later than **14th July 2015** will not be valid.

All valid nominations and method of voting will be posted on the **MF website by 19th July 2015**.

We would like to thank all of you for being Members of Maharashtra Foundation and for your Donations. For additional information, please contact : secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org