To: St. Louis ASHA Chapter

From: Subbarao Polineni, Founder of the Bright Life Foundation

Date :June 8, 2023

Dear members of the St. Louis, Asha Chapter:

I am writing to you to submit my project proposal for June 2023.

Everyone at Bright Life Foundation is extremely grateful and indebted to Asha for Education for your continued support. The pandemic has affected the lives of the children in several dimensions including education and family support and your support during these times is unparalleled and we cannot thank you enough. As we are recovering from the financials and educational pullbacks from COVID, we are pleased to inform you that we are back to previous schooling normalcy. We will continue to make use of your donation to further improve the lives of impoverished children at our school in Martur, India.

With your previous donations, Sharada Nikethan Public School has made several remarkable strikes.

1. By the beginning of academic year, 2021-2022 a total of 34 kids have graduated from the Special needs classes and were able to be integrated into their peer level classes.

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	WALKE OF THE	JOININ G YEAR	-2020 STUDENTS RE	DURATION OF	PROMOTE	PRESEN
SL. NO.	NAME OF THE STUDENT	AGE	COMPLETED CLASS	S.N.C. CLASS	D CLASS	T CLASS
		15	6TH (ENGLISH	1 YEAR		
1	ABINAY YASWANTH.	12	MEDIUM) 5TH (ENGLISH	(H.S.N.C) 1 YEAR		
2	MADHU KRISHNA	12	MEDIUM)	(H.S.N.C)		
-	WADITO KNOTHER	10	5th (ENGLISH	1 YEAR		
3	VISHNU		MEDIUM)	(H.S.N.C)		
		13		1 YEAR		
4	POOJITHA		5TH (T.M)	(H.S.N.C)		
5	SAILAJA	11	STH (T.M)	1 YEAR (M.S.N.C)		
3	SAILAJA	9	31H (1.W)	1 YEAR		
6	SOWMYA		3RD (T.M)	(M.S.N.C)		
		12		1 YEAR		
7	JOHN SAMUEL	-	4TH (T.M)	(M.S.N.C) 1 YEAR		
	DURGA PRASAD	12	4TH (T.M)	(M.S.N.C)		
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- 2.Our 10th grade pass is 100% for the seventh consecutive year. During the pandemic the board has relied on school evaluations
- 3. For the last four years, our students have appeared for EAMCET, NEET and the IIT exams (common entrance exams for Engineering and Medicine) and have pursued Engineering, and medical colleges.

COVID-19 Pandemic has had health and economic impacts on Bright life foundation and the kids we serve.

Despite the devastating second wave, we are thankful to God and all of our supporters that we have had no severe cases at the school. We have been masking, handwashing and maintaining social distancing regulations throughout the school.

We had to disperse as many students and orphans we could to their extended families. We take extra care and caution because we do serve HIV infected kids in the school as well. The kids that do not have any known families or those that could not be accepted by

their extended families have remained in the school. So, the school is physically running its dorms and food services.

For the kids in 10th, 11 and 12th grades we have quickly adapted online teaching since they have to take their career entrance exams and board exams. It has been challenging since not all students had access to technology. However, the younger kids have seen a dip in their academic progress.

Thanks to ASHA, we have some existing technology in the school, which we could use. We had to invest in additional tools, and teacher training. The teachers and staff are continuing to be paid a major part of their salary.

This academic year, we are back in person. leading to a school strength of 180. Last academic year in Summer 2021, we had 30 new admissions, of which 13 were identified to need Special educational needs and placed in Special Needs Class (SNC). Some of these kids have never been exposed to a book, leave alone the alphabets. Others have got either inconsistent schooling or some schooling but not up to their grade level due to their family circumstances. for example, there are kids that are 14 years and in 5th grade. Based on their first evaluation, we place these children with special needs in a separate class, where dedicated teaching faculty are employed to teach these kids in small groups of 4-5 students in an accelerated and intense curriculum to help them catch up and eventually integrate with their age appropriate peers. Programs such as these involve a significant increase in teaching costs. We see a significant lag in English in many of these students. So there is a need for 4 dedicated English teachers for this program.

Sri Sarada Niketan School is also open to orphan kids with HIV. Last year we had 9 new admissions with children infected with HIV. Our data so far indicates that these kids typically take an extra 2 years to graduate from Special needs class, likely due to the demands placed by the medical condition.

Analyzing our own data for the last 10 years, we noticed that students are starting their academic year with achievement levels much lower than where they were at the beginning of summer break. A well known phenomenon, called Summer learning loss. To be proactive about this problem, we have started a summer academy which runs half a day teaching for two and half months in Summer. This poses an additional cost for the school.

Additionally, Since our establishment in 2009, we have expanded our school to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade to support the education of our children beyond 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We believe supporting their education for these 2 additional critical years is essential to help them establish a career path. These students take professional entrance exams including NEAT, EAMCET, IIT, BITS, AIIMS etc. We are striving hard to help these students achieve admission in Engineering, medical, Economics, research and other professional colleges. We are hiring special visiting and part time teachers to provide the kids with extra skills to face professional entrance exams and better prepare for college education.

Last but not least, we are excited to inform you that we started an audio-visual academic lab in our dormitory where students have access to recorded classes that they can review during evening or night time (see photos attached). This innovative lab and learning techniques is one of the reasons we were awarded one of the **top 100 school principals in India in 2022.** 





We are also pleased to inform you that some of our students who have graduated have completed their medical, engineering and professional degrees. Attached is a document of their testimonials.

Thank you to Asha for your continued support in helping us create new ways to help our students

## Request for funding to support the above goals:

## **Projected Cost of Above Propositions:**

- 1. Salary of two English teachers (out of 4 total) for special needs children –Rs 2x 1,20,000=Rs 2,40,000.
- 2. Salary of one Math and Science teacher for special needs children -Rs 1,10,000
- 3. Salary of Math teacher for career entrance preparation class Rs. 50,000.
- 4. Salary of Biology, Physics and Chemistry teachers for career entrance preparation- Rs. 1,00,000
- 5. Study materials for Special Needs Class students- Workbooks, stationary,textbooks, test booklets Rs 50,000

- **6.** Study materials for Career entrance preparation Class students-personalized question banks and test materials software development-1,00,000
- 7. Career entrance exam students- Workbooks, stationary, textbooks, test booklets Rs 1,50,000
- **8.** Audio-visual academic lab resources- monitors, headsets- Rs, 1,00,000
- 9. Summer Academy- All the teaching staff's additional pay to teach half a day during the summer-Rs. 3,00,000

## Estimated Total: Rs. 12,00,000

Please feel free to contact me anytime at 314-780-9943 or email at <a href="mailto:subbaraopolineni@gmail.com">subbaraopolineni@gmail.com</a> if you have any questions regarding our proposal. Thank you for your consideration and support of our endeavor.

Sincerely,

Subbarao Polineni