



Friends of children - Annual Report 2019-20

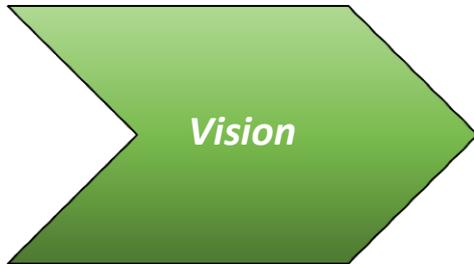


Empowering youth through education

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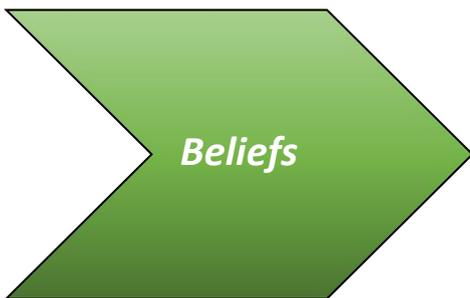
Vision/Mission



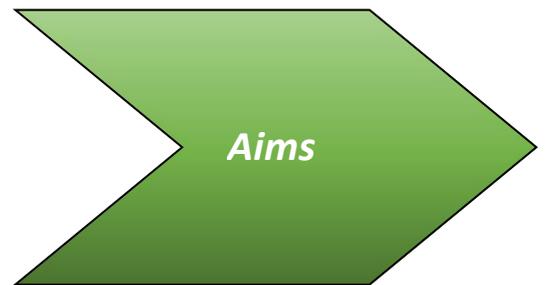
Every meritorious student regardless of religion, caste, gender or socio-economic background must have the opportunity to have the right education equipping him/her lead a successful life.



To provide every student with effective, high quality guidance, learning experiences and monetary support, instilling the right values to become a good citizen of India.



- Education is a right in democracy and provides the tools to create a more egalitarian and just society.
- All children and youth have a right to high-quality, comprehensive education.
- We model what students learn



- Monetary support to meritorious students who are unable to continue their higher education due to financial difficulties.
- Motivate people participation at large to contribute for development of education.
- Enable students to achieve academic excellence and raise the platform, giving equal opportunities to generate greater employability.

Foreword from Founders

Life as we know may not exist, and what we continue to firmly believe in, will remain your unflinching support as in the last 17 years !

Today the world is a very different place and each of us is seeing events constantly unfold in front of us..... most of which we had never imagined in our wildest dreams!! More than 70% of the world is in lockdown in one fashion or other, as we write this missive to you. The future is uncertain, and we don't know when life will go back to normal as we once knew. Or maybe as most people are predicting, we would need to get used to the ' new normal ' evolving in front of us.

The past couple of months have taught us what is really important to us as human beings.....That we care for our family, our friends and those unknown people on the street who are being tested to the limits of their endurance and fortitude . This is the same belief with which we started FoC 17 years back. These 17 years when we went through so many ups and downs, what helped us get through it was the empathy, the compassion and the feeling of fellowship to all those who are in need. And all our donors, well wishers, volunteers and students believed in us and have been part of this eventful, fruitful journey.

We are confident that we will get through many more years with the same support and continue to see thousands of young children achieve their potential with your support and good wishes!

Warm Regards

Vani

Aparna

Program Highlights

Nurture Merit

This program is the very central theme of Friends of Children, where we provide sponsorship to meritorious, needy students. The program has been successfully running for the past seventeen years and several deserving students have been beneficiaries. It entails a thorough selection process which involves validating the financial needs, education credits and most importantly the willingness of the students to pursue their higher education and take their careers forward. Regional volunteers are roped in to conduct home visits, to get an overall status of the student before their final selection.

Since inception 4400 students have been sponsored with over Rs 2.8 crore fees disbursed.

This year Rs 26,30,653 was spent of which Rs 22,93,450 was disbursed to 232 students.

Umeed (Hope) – Monthly Workshop Program

The Umeed program helps us achieve our mission of “Holistic Development”. In its tenth year, the program has evolved over time into a rigorous curriculum, equipping students with the essential life skills and soft skills to grow as individuals. Spearheaded by **Anupama Ganu**, who is a trained counsellor herself, the program covers an array of training workshops on subjects like – Motivation, Leadership, Emotional Management, Handling Success & Failure, Unconscious Bias, Assertive Communication, Sex Education etc.

The topics are chosen such that they are most relevant to the student audience for their personal growth. Attendance to all workshops is mandatory and our students have responded well to this program, as we see them transform and attain competence in these skills. Our professional trainers continue to volunteer their personal time and expertise to drive Umeed forward and several of them have had a long association with FoC. We are very thankful for their contribution.

Workshops were conducted in various regions this year. All our students were required to attend a minimum of 5 workshops being held for their class and region.

The coming year 2020-2021 will be different than our programs over the years. We had launched a plan to have residential programs with all students to increase the impact of the program. With coronavirus upending all the plans, we have started an initiative to convert many of our modules to online delivery. We also plan to experiment with Web meetings for our training programs in the coming year.

The anchor of the program – Anupama

Anupama has been a practicing child therapist for last 15 years, working with children from all strata of society. She has had the opportunity to work in different settings - was a director for the program run to assist terminally ill children in hospital. She has worked with children at adoption centers and with NGOs. She also had opportunity to run play therapy programs in schools and preschools. She conducts trainings in play therapy for parents, teachers, professionals and students of psychology. She has done her Masters in Human development from Mumbai University & family counseling diploma from U.S. She started working with FoC 10 years ago and has been very involved in FoC activities over the years.



Unnati (Progress) – Recruitment Skill Program

The Unnati program was structured to help our final year students prepare themselves better for their entry into the corporate world. Spearheaded by **Manoj Sharma** and ably assisted by an Alumni team, the program provides a framework to help the students with their interviewing skills which would improve their chances to get through campus placements, or even for job opportunities beyond their college campus.

This is a residential program of 2 days in Pune, thrice a year, with the structure consisting of softer topics such as Attitude, Assertiveness, and Corporate Etiquette, along with more hands-on exercises around Resume Preparation, Group Discussions and Mock Interviews. Tangible feedback is provided at the end of the program to all participants to help them further fine tune on their areas of improvement.

The program has been successfully running for the past eight years and the results have been very encouraging. Our endeavor is to continue to actively drive this program to help our students secure jobs with esteemed companies.



Uday (Rising) – Spoken English Program

Started two years back this initiative was launched to help strengthen the English Communication skills of our final year students, helping them gain confidence and fluency in spoken English, as they transition from their college campus into the Corporate World. Volunteers would have “twice a week” telephonic conversations with assigned students to enable him/her improve their grammar, vocabulary and conversational skills. The students in turn can choose different topics to converse with their assigned volunteer.

Volunteers often guide the students by introducing them to various sources like Newspaper, Television News, books, movies to help them improve command on the language. This program has helped our students gain confidence during their interview process, especially around Group Discussions and Face to Face interviews.

This program has shown a lot of success with our students and volunteers.

All interaction between volunteers and students were over phone and most have not even seen each other over a year.



Unnati Mentors

Alongside project Uday, we also initiated a mentorship program involving our Alumni. Senior students are assigned to Alumni from the same field on a one to one basis. They provide a professional perspective unknown to students who are on the cusp of taking on their first job.

The entire exercise is again carried on through telephonic conversations and it has been found that this mentor program has matured into a valuable big brother/ sister connect, with diverse queries and concerns addressed along the way.

Umang (Joy)- Alumni Participation Program

FoC has always believed in the principles of “Inclusiveness” and “Paying it forward” as part of its core vision. The Umang program was launched precisely to accomplish this, where our Alumni students come together with a spirit to contribute back to FoC with donations and participate in sustaining its journey.

Umang has increased our network of students, with Alumni remaining connected to FoC through various activities. Our Alumni network has been growing exponentially and this year, they contributed a notable of Rs. 2.2 Lakh to FoC.

Besides their monetary contribution, our Alumni have also raised their hand in mentoring, taking on administrative duties and playing an important role at every level of administration in FoC.



Core Volunteer Team

This year we initiated the concept of a Core Volunteer team comprising of Alumni who would manage logistics from the background. The following members raised their hand, putting their personal work over weekends on hold and assisted FoC projects. Starting from project planning till execution they were part of it, mentored by the project head, learning the skills of planning, coordinating and execution. The following team of core volunteers helped us in smooth execution of projects like Unnati, Uday and Unnati-Mentors throughout the year.

Nikhil Bhagwat who works in Orient Technology has been a core volunteer for 1 year. His projects are Uday and Unnati

Sarita Jambagi who works in State Street HCL Ltd has been a core volunteer for 2 years. She is part of the Unnati mentor program

Dipali Kandhare who works in Tata communications Ltd has been a core volunteer for 2 years. She is involved in Unnati, Uday, new student interviews selection, pre Unnati aptitude sessions

Vaibhavi Kandhare who works in Schaeffler India, Tamilnadu has been a core volunteer for 2 years. She is involved in Unnati, Unnati mentors, Uday.

Pallavi Bibave who works in Mphasis has been a core volunteer for 1 year. She is involved in aptitude tests in the Narayangaon region.

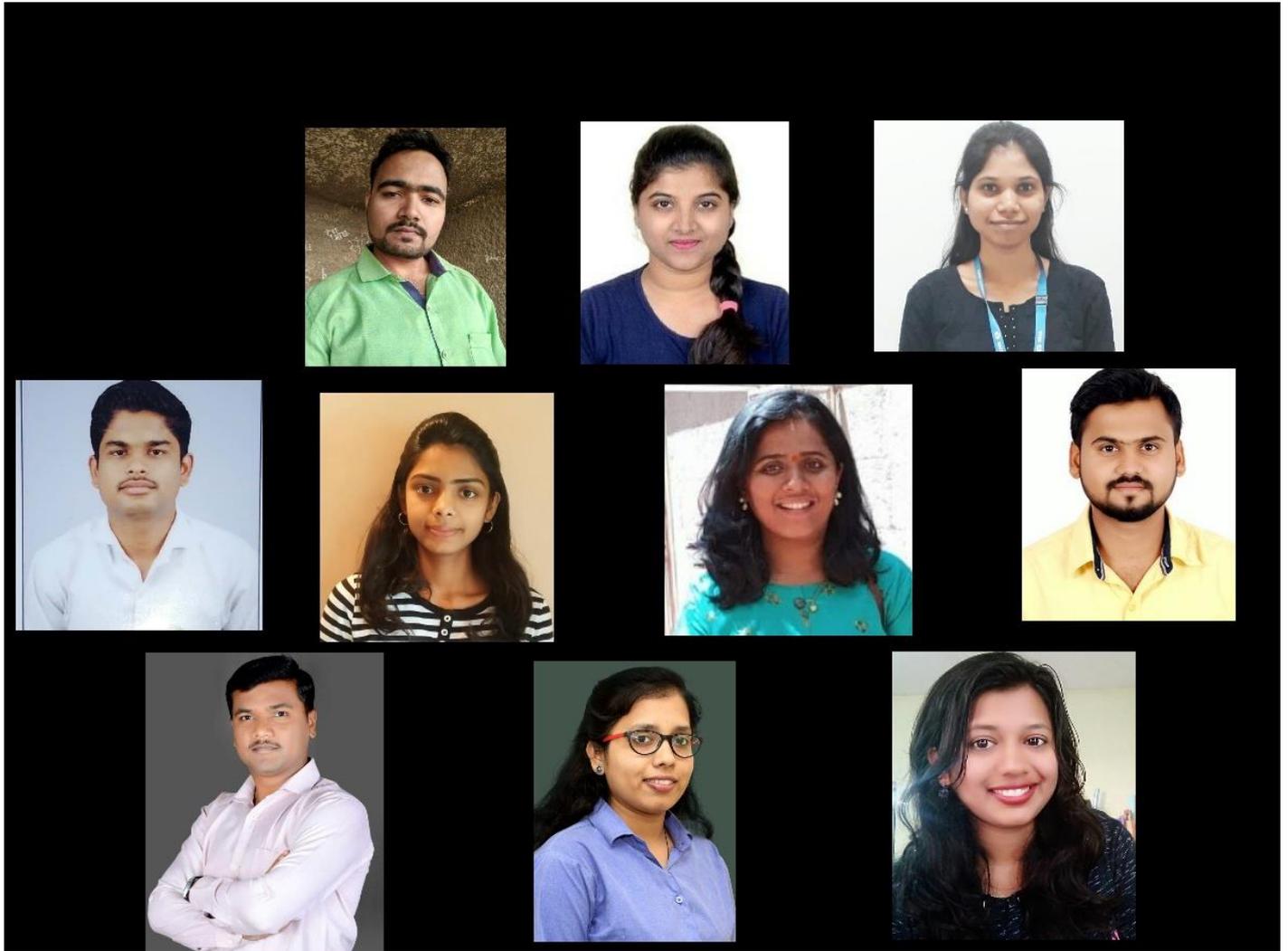
Saurabh Borhade who works in Neuman & Esser Engineering (I) pvt ltd has been a core volunteer for 2 years. He is involved in Unnati coordination, new student selection, workshops, aptitude test camp session.

Amol Yevale who works in Frames Process and Energy Systems India Pvt Ltd has been a core volunteer for 1 year. He is involved in Unnati, Unnati Mentors, Udaan, New student selection papers.

Shruti Dhawade who works in Urja Foods & Agro pvt ltd has been a core volunteer for 1 year. She is involved in Uday and Unnati projects.

Gayatri Pawar who works in Shelter associates, Pune has been a core volunteer for 2 years. She is involved in Uday and Unnati projects.

Sharad Patil who works in Magna Automotive India Pvt. Ltd has been a core volunteer for 1 year. He is involved in Unnati coordination, TY Ap test, Uday and camps



Our Helping Hands (Alumni)

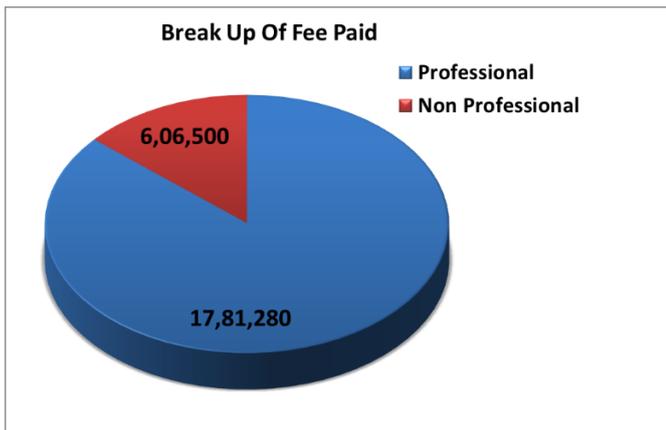
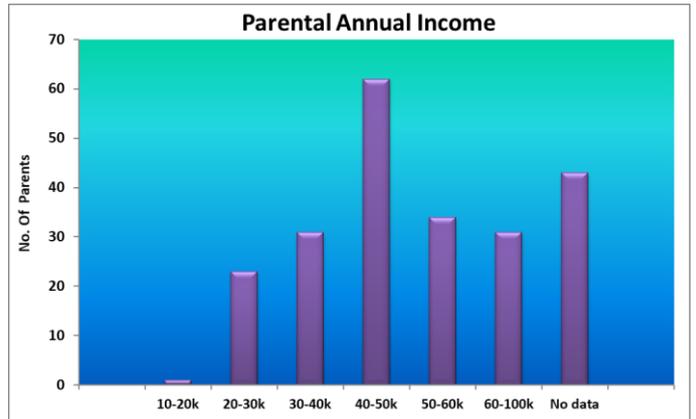
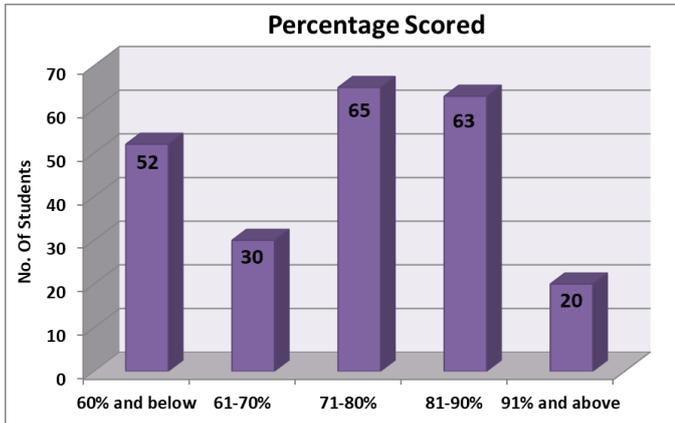
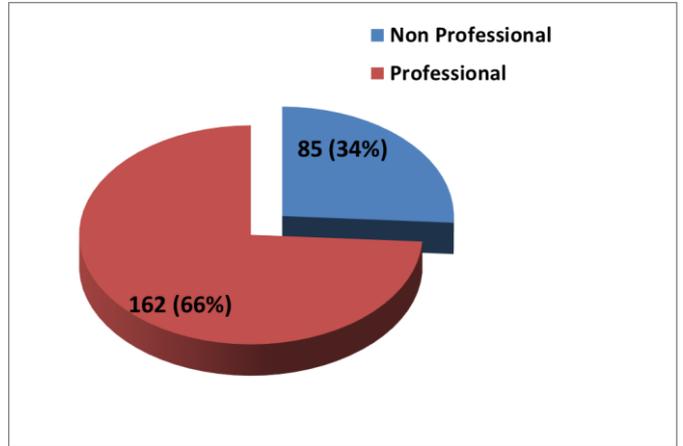
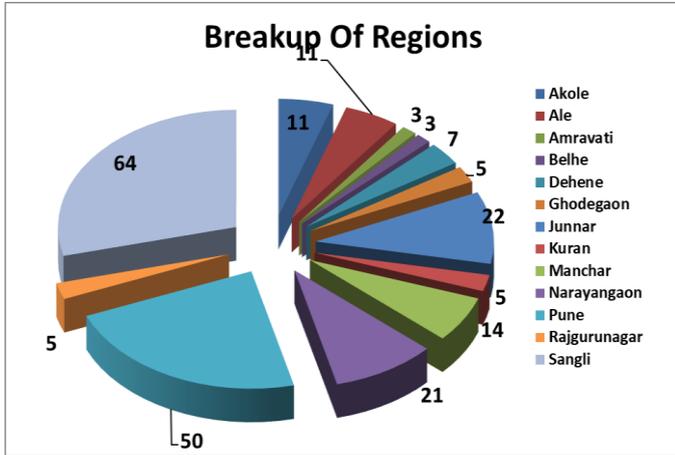
Be it interviewing new prospects, interacting with final year students, conducting home visits or arranging social activities, our Alumni are always full of enthusiasm and participate whole heartedly! A huge Thank you to each of them!!

Our Helping Hands: Donors for 2019-20

Sr. No.	Donor Details	Sr. No.	Donor Details	Sr.No.	Donor Details
1	Abhijeet Bhor	48	Kanchan Shegar	95	Sagar Wakale
2	Abhijit Patil	49	Kedar More	96	Sagar Yelzare
3	Acceltree Software Pvt Ltd.	50	Keshav Bhoite	97	Sangram Bhalerao
4	Akshay Kokane	51	Kiran Satkar	98	Sanjay Kirloskar
5	Akshay Lambhate	52	Kulkarni Constructions	99	Sanjita Patil
6	Akshay Parte	53	Madhuri Pingale	100	Saurabh Borhade
7	Akshay Walunj	54	Madhuri vasant Patil (GANPARAMS)	101	Seagate Technology HDD (India) Pvt Ltd
8	Amit Shinde	55	Madinabanoo Shaikh	102	Sheetal Kawade
9	Amol Yevale	56	Mahakali Enterprises	103	Shreepad Gokhale
10	Aniket Jadhav	57	Mahesh Kulkarni	104	Shreyash Patil
11	Arti Saravade	58	Mangesh Jadhav	105	Shreejit Savadekar
12	Arun Monga	59	Manoj Dongare	106	Shruti Dhawade
13	Ashish Hake	60	Mayuri Patil	107	Sneha Shirse
14	Ashwini Patil	61	Meera S Raman	108	Snehal Auti
15	Asmita Shinde	62	Monika More	109	Snehal Shinde
16	Atishkumar Dhage	63	Mrudula Ozarkar	110	Spectrum club
17	Atul Waykar	64	Naazneen Kotawala	111	Sudhir Morde
18	Axuilife Scientific services Pvt Ltd	65	Nandini Vishwanath	112	Sujit Shinde
19	Bina Sundar	66	Neha Petkar	113	Sushil Wagh
20	Chirag Hande	67	Nikhil Bhagwat	114	Suvarna Abhang
21	Devashish Jatthap	68	Nikita Dhamdhare	115	Swapnil Gore
22	Dhananjay Padghamkar	69	Nilam Kale	116	Tatya Markad

23	Dhanesh Warule	70	Nilesh Bhosale	117	Treknocom Engineering Pvt Ltd
24	Dinesh Daphale	71	Nilesh Kamthe	118	Tukaram Gore
25	Dipak Bichkule	72	Nirmala Borhade	119	Tulirekha Choudhary
26	Dipali Kandhare	73	Omkar Patil	120	Tushar Atkari
27	Durgadevi Sargar	74	Pallavi Bibave	121	Tushar Sandbhor
28	Dwarka Avasare	75	Poonam Nimse	122	Umeed Zareer Kothavala
29	E bix Technology Pvt Ltd	76	Pournima Thakur	123	Vaibhavi Tambagi
30	Emcure Pharmaceutical Ltd	77	Pramod Sherkar	124	Varsha Gavade
31	Extentia Information Technology Pvt Ltd	78	Pravin Gulage	125	Vaibhav Patil
32	Forbes Foundation	79	Pravin Wagh	126	Vijaya Waghanur
33	Ganesh Amrule	80	Pritam Paymode	127	Vijay Waykar
34	Ganesh Chaugule	81	Priyanka Bajaj	128	Vikas Bajabalkar
35	Ganesh Dinde	82	Priyanka Gaikwad	129	Vikas Ghatge
36	Ganesh Padwal	83	Radhu Chaudhari	130	Vishal Gholap
37	Ganesh Rokade	84	Rahul Yevale	131	Vishal Ramkar
38	Gouri wale	85	Rahul Ashtekar	132	Vishwanath Padvi
39	Harshal Bankhele	86	Ramesh Sutar	133	Vishwanath Mantha
40	Hemant Jadhav	87	RDA Holding Pvt Ltd	134	Zakiya Kurrien
42	Hemant Thopate	89	Rekha Chavan	136	Zyfn Kothawala
43	Jayashree Patil	90	Rohit Raskar		
44	John Kurrien	91	Rutuja Chavan		
45	Jyoti Kute	92	Sachin Bankar		
46	Kalpesh Shinde	93	Sachin Pansare		
47	Kanchan Jagdale	94	Sagar Avate		

FOC In Numbers



Future Plans

Our future plans include

- ✓ Expansion of core volunteer team
- ✓ Online training modules for our monthly workshops
- ✓ More mechanisms for virtual interactions with students/volunteers

Annexure 1: Identification Process, Selection and Monitoring Criteria

Identification Process

- In every case, fee disbursement was done only after rigorous process of identification and verification by physically visiting the home units of shortlisted students.
- Applications received from school contacts, volunteers and well-wishers.
- Volunteers interviewed all shortlisted candidates and visited every shortlisted applicant's household.
- Final selected new student beneficiaries inducted in FoC for the year.
- Detailed documentation of each deserving case with photo shoots of house/applicant prepared.

Selection Criteria

We have followed two different modules for selection of students in the city and villages. The criteria which has driven us to follow this particular pattern is as follows:

- Cost of living is much higher in the city
- More general awareness in the city compared to villages
- Availability of resources, mainly volunteers

Criteria	Urban Students	Rural Students
Identification & Home Visits	Done through our volunteers	Teachers from local schools identify and perform the home visits
Income	<60,000 P.A.	<50,000 P.A.
Cut off % Std. X	> 85%	> 80%
Cut off % Std. XI	>70%	> 70%
Cut off % Std. XII	>80% for professional courses and 70% for degree courses	>80% for professional courses and 70% for degree courses
Cut off % Degree	First Class	First Class

Fee Distribution	A fixed amount is paid - depending on the course taken, marked scored, participation in workshops and various activities & general proficiency	A fixed amount is paid - depending on the course taken, marked scored, participation in workshops, meetings attended & general proficiency
Meeting/Workshop	Once a month	Once a month through local Coordinators and volunteers

Monitoring Criteria (renewal of sponsorship on an evolved credit system)

- Students are expected to keep up their mark scores to the required percentage and renew their sponsorship each year.
- Attendance to workshops/residential programs is mandatory
- Extracurricular activities and extra academic projects are given extra weightage
- Self – Supporting students are given preference
- Students are encouraged to volunteer for FoC within their regions or volunteer in any organization of their choice.

Annexure II: Trustee and Contact Information

Friends of Children, Pune was initiated and registered under Maharashtra Societies Registration Act (1960), India in 2003 and as a Regd. Trust in 2004.

Board of Trustees

- **Mrs. Shantha Suryanarayan – President, Trustee**
- **Mrs. Vani Subramanyam – Trustee, Treasurer**
- **Mrs. Aparna Pardeshi – Trustee, Secretary**
- **Mr. Manoj Sharma – Trustee, Working member**
- **Mr. Harshad Joshi - Trustee, Working member**
- **Mrs. Nalini Ramchandra – Trustee**
- **Mr. S. Subramanian – Trustee**

Contact Us

Aparna Pardeshi

Founder

aparna.foc@gmail.com

Manoj Sharma

Trustee

mksharmafoc@gmail.com

Vani Subramanyam

Founder

vani.foc@gmail.com

Office Details:

Swati Naiknaware, (8983318429)

(10am – 5pm, Thursdays closed)

Bank details as follows for Indian Rupee donations

Friends of Children, Canara Bank, Koregaon Park, Pune 411001

A/c no. 0263101018900, IFSC Code: CNRB0000263

Bank details for foreign currency donations (FCRA Reg. No. 083930612)

Friends of Children, Canara Bank, Koregaon Park, Pune 411001

A/c no. 0263101020031, IFSC Code: CNRB0000263

Friends of Children is also registered with Asha for Education (Boston Chapter)

Pallavi Kulkarni, in Boston, co-ordinates for the same – pgiyer16@gmail.com