

There are no better rewards for our efforts than letters like these....

ഹൃദയം നിറഞ്ഞ നന്ദി!
 സർ,
 ഞാൻ ചിദംബരൻ. സുദേവിന്റെ അച്ഛൻ. സുദേവിന്റെ BTech. exam കഴിഞ്ഞു. എട്ടാം സെമെസ്റ്ററിൽ 71.18 ശതമാനം മാർക്കോടെ വിജയിച്ച സന്തോഷവിവരം അറിയിക്കുന്നു. MEAയോട് കടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങൾ ഈ സഹായത്തിന് എങ്ങിനെ നന്ദി പറയണമെന്നറിയില്ല. ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസ്സ് തുടങ്ങി ഇതുവരെയുള്ള പഠനത്തിൽ തിളക്കമാർന്ന വിജയം കരസ്ഥമാക്കിയ സുദേവിന്റെ അച്ഛൻ എന്ന നിലയിൽ വളരെയധികം അഭിമാനിക്കുകയാണ്. +2 വരെ തട്ടിയും മുട്ടിയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഇല്ലായ്മ അറിയിക്കാതെ അവനെ പഠിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. തുടർവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ എന്ത് ചെയ്യണമെന്നറിയാതെ വിഷമിച്ചിരിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് ഒരു ദിനപത്രത്തിന്റെ ഏതോ ഒരു കോണിൽ ഒരു ദിവ്യനക്ഷത്രത്തെ പോലെ MEAയുടെ പരസ്യം കാണാനിടയായതും അപേക്ഷിച്ചതും, ഒട്ടും പ്രതീക്ഷയുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല. പക്ഷെ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ അനുഗ്രഹവും MEAയിലെ സാറൻമാരുടെ കരുണയും ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് തുണയേകി. തുടർന്നുള്ള 4 വർഷങ്ങളിലായി MEA നൽകിയ പണം തികച്ചും അവന്റെ പഠനാവശ്യത്തിനായി മാത്രം മാറ്റിവെച്ചു. മാനവസേവയാണ് മാധവസേവ എന്ന സാമീ വിവേകാനന്ദന്റെ സൂക്തം തികച്ചും അന്വർത്ഥമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് സേവനപാതയിലേക്ക് ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി പരിശ്രമം നടത്തക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന MEAയ്ക്ക് തുടർന്നും അതിനുള്ള എല്ലാവിധ കരുത്തും ഓജസ്സും സമ്പത്തും സർവ്വേശ്വരൻ നൽകിട്ടെ എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാൻ ഈ അവസരം ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. MEA യിലെ ഓരോ അംഗങ്ങളോടും ഞങ്ങളുടെ അകമഴിഞ്ഞ കൃതജ്ഞത അറിയിക്കുകയാണ്. സുദേവിന് Campus selectionൽ TCSൽ placement കിട്ടിയകാര്യം കൂടി അറിയിക്കട്ടെ. തുടർന്നും നിങ്ങളുടെ ഓരോരുത്തരുടേയും ഉപദേശവും നിർദ്ദേശവും സഹകരണവും സഹായവും എല്ലറ്റിലുമുപരി അനുഗ്രഹവും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷയോടെ , ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് വഴികാട്ടിയായി തുണയായി സഹായിച്ച MEA യിലെ എല്ലാ സാറൻമാരോടും ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി ഹൃദയംഗമായ നന്ദി! നമസ്കാരം!

എന്ന്,
 ചിദംബരൻ പി.

Sudev, A.C.



“ My parents were planning to take a considerable amount of money as education loan at high interest during my first year. Your scholarship was a great relief for my parents. Now they are able to manage my college and hostel expenditure by your scholarship along with a small loan. I could not find words to thank you. I use this occasion to assure you that I will try to help students in my future, like MEA members. I don't know whether I will have the fortune for that. Once again thank you for your encouragement and great support.”

Our Scholars are giving back too....

Advancing the common good and creating opportunities for a better life through education have been the corner stones of MEA Scholarship Program. Now, several of the former MEA scholars have come forward to support a Scholarship Fund in India to help an engineering student with a scholarship of Rs.25,000 per year. Donations for this scholarship are accepted in Indian Rupees in an account set up at Federal Bank in India. The account is operated by a non-profit organization, CETA Galaxy Charitable Trust (CGCT) in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed between MEA Houston and CGCT. All funds deposited in this account are earmarked for the payment of the scholarships. MEA Houston helps the former MEA Scholars with the screening and selection of the student for their scholarship. Some well-wishers of this program also donate to the Fund. It is hoped participation in this laudable program will grow and number of scholarships will increase in the future. For additional information about this program and how you or your relatives and friends in India can participate in it, please contact Vijay Kayath at 281 242 5936 or via email vkayath@gmail.com

Some of our MEA scholars find time to take part in charitable work including providing assistance to mentally and physically challenged children and adults, helping cancer patients from poor families etc. It is truly satisfying and inspiring to see that these MEA scholars who overcame much hardships of their own are now stepping forward to help others even though they have just started on building their careers and family life.

An Appeal to you

The scale and thoroughness with which we operate our scholarship program require the entire MEA membership be engaged in helping the Director Board and Scholarship Program Coordinator. The diversity and resources we have among our members enrich us and make us confident to drive change through our shared vision.

With help from people like you we can make a difference in the lives of a few youths providing them and their families opportunities for a better life.

Whatever aspect of MEA's Scholarship Program you are passionate about and however you would like to get involved, (giving, mentoring, advocating or volunteering) we invite you to join us for a most rewarding experience

Please contact:
Joyce John (MEA President): 832 703 9155
Sojan Antony (Treasurer): 713 992 9301.

We will greatly appreciate your generous contributions. MEA Houston is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c) 3. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible to the extent laws in USA allow.



Visit www.meahouston.org/donate to make your generous donation.



**MEA
 Scholarship Program -
 A Social Investment**



**Malayalee Engineers' Association (MEA)
 HOUSTON, TEXAS**

[www..meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)
www.facebook.com/meahouston

History and Principles

In the year 2000, Malayalee Engineers' Association, (MEA) Houston launched a modest, but visionary scheme to provide assistance to brilliant undergraduate students who were struggling to pursue their studies due to financial hardships. For the Malayalee engineers who resided in Houston area, this was an opportunity to give back to the society and institutions that cared and nurtured many of us. In the last 14 years, MEA has supported 113 students with scholarships, and disbursed a total of \$200,000. Currently the scholarship is \$500 per year for a student enrolled in 4-year course in Engineering, Technology, Computer Science, Architecture and Naval Architecture in a recognized University in India. Unlike many other scholarship programs, it covers a substantial portion of the total educational expenses of the student. MEA's Scholarship Program is unique in that it is conceived as a social investment to create opportunities for a better life. Apart from providing financial assistance, the program also provides mentoring for the scholars. It stresses the quality of the selection process, mentoring and counseling to assure students' success rather than focusing on the number of scholarships awarded each year. The high graduation rate (>96%) of MEA Scholars attests to the Scholarship Program's success. Several of the MEA Scholars actively participate in various charitable activities in India continuing the chain of charity we created and making MEA's social investment meaningful and drawing high returns.

How We Select the Students

Every year applications for MEA Scholarships are invited through announcements in leading newspapers, MEA Houston web site, displays on College bulletin boards and word of mouth by professors and former MEA Scholars. The Students' performance record in 10th and 12th grade examinations and the rank in the Engineering Entrance Examination are considered along with the financial burden of the family. MEA's Scholarship Evaluation Committee then generates a ranking for each applicant. The Committee discusses the results of the application evaluations and creates a short list of candidates. The financial background of the short-listed students is verified by volunteer MEA contacts in Kerala who actually visit the candidates' homes and interview the parents and collect information through people who know the student and family. Based on the feedbacks from field volunteers the rankings are adjusted as necessary and a final list of selected students is prepared.

Administration of the Program

MEA has a Scholarship Program Coordinator (SPC) appointed by the Director Board. The SPC is responsible for the administration of the Scholarship Program including timely invitation of applications, coordination of the Evaluation Committee's work and maintenance of all records related to the renewal of scholarships and mentoring. SPC is responsible to monitor the academic performances of the Scholars and coordinates with MEA Treasurer for scholarship payments. MEA relies on the generous contributions from its members, general public and corporate matching funds for awarding the scholarships. We strive to operate efficiently and to minimize fundraising and administrative costs. All the work involved in invitation and evaluation of applications, verification of students' financial data etc. are performed by volunteers allowing almost all the funds raised to be given as scholarships. Funds for the scholarship program are maintained in a bank account, separate from the general operating funds of MEA. The Scholarship Program rules forbid transfer of funds from the Scholarship account to MEA's general operating account.



How MEA Raises Funds

Donations from MEA members and well-wishers and corporate matching gift programs are the main sources of our funds. MEA Houston requests funds from members and supporters through various media throughout the year. In the past, many supporters outside MEA have sponsored scholarships as tributes to a loved one or simply to support this noble cause.

Ways You Can Donate

Any person wishing to contribute funds to the MEA Scholarship Program can use the following methods:

1. Monetary contribution in any amount by check/online.
2. Sponsor scholarships in honor or memory of a special person or occasion.
3. Multi-year pledge to contribute a fixed amount every year for 4 years or more.
4. Participate in Corporate charitable gift programs individually or by pooling funds from several employees and utilize Corporate Matching Gift policy.
5. Supporting MEA's fund raising programs.

Tax Deductibility of Donations

MEA has been approved by IRS as a charitable organization under section of 501(c)(3). Contributions to MEA are tax-deductible, as per applicable laws.

In keeping with IRS guidelines, MEA Houston takes many measures to safeguard the money in the Scholarship Fund with strict fiduciary controls. We do not sell, rent, or share our donors' list with any other organization.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities await MEA members and their spouses if they are interested to participate in our scholarship program. These range from a few to many hours a week. Some of the tasks our volunteers can undertake are: Join future Scholarship Evaluation committees; helping Scholarship Program Coordinator to maintain files, email and postal correspondence, mentoring MEA scholars and help establish a network of people in Kerala to verify financial background of applicants. For more information, kindly contact us at meahouston@gmail.com. Or, find us on our web site www.meahouston.org or facebook.com/meahouston.

What are former Scholars doing now?

MEA has tried to maintain contact with our former scholars. To our knowledge all former MEA Scholars are well-employed, and are in the process of building careers. Here is a sampling of former MEA scholars:

- S.S. Sreekanth** – Graduated in 2006 from Model Engineering College, Thrikkakara. Senior Engineer at Nvidia, Bangalore.
- Aneesh Suseelan** – Graduated in 2006 from TKM College of Engineering, Kollam. Scientist at Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore.
- Abin Purushothaman** – Graduated in 2007 from CUSAT- Worked a few years in Dubai; Graduate student at University of New Orleans.
- Preethi Ramachandran** – Graduated in 2007 from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Kottayam; MS in Software Systems at Birla Institute of Technology; Technology Analyst for Infosys. Lives in New Jersey
- Anup K John** – Graduated in 2008 from NSS College of Engineering, Palakkad. MBA from IIM, Ranchi. Manager, ICICI Bank in Chennai.
- Sujith, K.R.** – Graduated from College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram in 2008; Studied Nuclear Engineering at Homi Bhabha National Institute; Senior Scientific Officer at Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Chennai.
- Dileep, D.S.** – Graduated in 2007 from Viswajyothi College of Engineering & Technology; Engineer for Infinera Corporation and Freelancer in Bangalore.
- Ajeesh Kakkath** – Graduated in Architecture in 2009 from College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. Asst. Professor of Architecture at Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal.
- Ayyappadas, P.** – Graduated with first rank in Kerala University, from College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, in 2009. Senior Engineer at ISRO, Thiruvananthapuram. Plans to go for higher studies.
- P.K. Joshin** – Graduated in 2010 from College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. Post Graduate studies in Telecommunications at IISc Bangalore. Asst. Professor at PES School of Engineering, Bangalore.
- Bibin Mohanan** - Graduated in 2011 from College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram. Works at BHEL, Bangalore.
- Kannan Nair** – Graduated in 2011 from Mar Athanasius College of Engineering, Kothamangalam. Systems Analyst for Infosys.
- Sudev A.C.** – Graduated in 2012 from Government Engineering College, Thrissur; Systems Engineer for TCS.
- Sajna, K** – Graduated from Govt. College of Engineering, Kannur 2013; Executive Trainee Engineer for Larsen & Toubro Technology Services.
- Abhijith, M.V.** – Graduated in 2014 from Model Engineering College, Thrikkakara with 2nd rank in University; Applications Engineer for ANSYS, Inc.