



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

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

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

Tax Exemption ID

Under IRS Section 501

(c)(3)

22-2213611

United Way NY, NJ, CT

Agency Code 011675

Executive Committee

President

Arundhati Vinod

201 568 5976

president@maharashtrafoundation.org

Vice President

Shaila Vidwans

vicepresident@maharashtrafoundation.org

Secretary

Sharayu Tulpule

secretary@maharashtrafoundation.org

Treasurer

Punit Marathe

treasurer@maharashtrafoundation.org

Members

Anirudha Kinare

Anjali Limaye

Ankush Karnik

Sunanda Mane

Vinata Kulkarni

Maharashtra Foundation fund-raising gala held on November 13th raised about \$60,000.

Maharashtra Foundation is a unique volunteer supported non-profit organization registered in New York. It enjoys “special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations”. It works in partnership with various non-profit organizations in India and in United States. Maharashtra Foundation supports initiatives like Anti Human Trafficking, child sponsorship, women empowerment, projects in healthcare and education fields. It runs 1-877-MAYTRIN which is a hotline number for the women and men in distress.

Maharashtra Foundation held its annual fund raising event on November 13th 2010 at the “Ukrainian Cultural Center” in Somerset , NJ. It was a well attended, enjoyable and inspiring evening. Dr. Arundhati Vinod gave an overview of the Foundation’s recent activities. The keynote speaker Mr. Carl Pope, Chairman of the Sierra Club addressed the audience with his interesting remarks. He himself has spent 2 years as Peace Corps volunteer in India. He emphasized that Maharashtra Foundation pioneered the idea of supporting socially conscious non-religious charities some thirty years ago. Sierra Club’s environmental awards in India emulate the format used for Maharashtra Foundation’s awards in literature & social services, started long ago by Mr. Sunil Deshmukh, the past president of Maharashtra Foundation.

One of the key segments of the evening was the speeches by young workers from the development and public health area from rural Maharashtra. The speakers were Dr. Anand Bang, a young promising social worker from SEARCH organization in Gadchiroli district in remote parts of Eastern Maharashtra and Pallavi Amte from Maharogi Sewa Samiti, Anandwan. Dr Bang talked about the lack of basic necessities among the tribals. He told stories that left the entire audience spellbound. His innovative research among the aborigines in the region has been adopted by the WHO. Maharogi Sewa Samiti, a non-profit NGO founded by late Baba Amte, is an NGO empowering people afflicted with leprosy and other disabilities. Pallavi Amte manages as many as 40 projects serving the daily needs of about 4000 cured leprosy patients and disabled persons in Anandwan. These young social workers challenged the audience to help, not only with finances but their specialized knowledge & expertise. It was inspiring to hear these young people elaborate the future plans and dreams.

The evening also included a delightful instrumental music and dance recital called “Conversations in Taal” lead by sitarist Gargi Shinde. The program featured an exponent kathak dancer Aditi Bhagwat. The delicious snacks, food, drinks and ambience encouraged mingling and networking for the donors who had gathered to open their purses that evening to donate to the causes that touched their hearts. Maharashtra Foundation



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collected donations worth about \$60,000 in one evening. The evening was partially sponsored by generous donations from Chitra and Anil Deshpande from Florida and Mr. Sudhir and Vidya Moravekar from New York.

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Maharashtra Foundation also organized visits by the young social workers to large and small venues in Connecticut, Manhattan, Queens, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania and Washington DC. The hope is to introduce the US born young people and others from India to the inspiring dedication of such young persons.

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[president@maharashtra
foundation.org](mailto:president@maharashtrafoundation.org)

Visit www.MaharashtraFoundation.org to read about foundation's projects and activities.

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Shaila Vidwans

[vicepresident@maharas
htrafoundation.org](mailto:vicepresident@maharashtrafoundation.org)

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