

Akshaya Patra USA Raises Over \$1 Million at Virtual Event for Children of India and for COVID-19 Food Relief



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The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA held its first virtual gala of 2021, **Partnerships for Happiness**, featuring Dr. Deepak Chopra, Sonu Sood, and Milind Pant.

The online gala was highly successful, with over 750 families in attendance and over \$1 million in donations collected. With COVID-19 cases on the rise in India, all funds raised will **provide food relief** to migrant workers, including cooked meals, ration boxes for families, and Happiness Kits containing 20 days worth of food, hygiene products, and educational supplies to Akshaya Patra's mid-day meal beneficiaries.

"We are very gratified to see the grassroots support for the mission of Akshaya Patra. With the developing COVID crisis in India and the ongoing need to support the meals for education program for the children of India, the broad participation of our donors and their commitment to this cause allows us to address these issues directly," said Siva Sivaram, Board Chairman of Akshaya Patra USA.

The event kicked off with a presentation from Dr. Deepak Chopra speaking on the 'Nature of Reality - Metahuman.' Later in the program, astute business leader Milind Pant held a fireside chat with talented actor and humanitarian Sonu Sood. Sonu shared his life story and most recent humanitarian efforts to support those in India impacted by the pandemic. Throughout the event, attendees enjoyed terrific performances by singer and producer Abby V and the beautiful dancer Vinaini Jayasinghe.

Overall, the evening was full of remarkable conversations, lively entertainment, and inspirational moments celebrating Akshaya Patra's beneficiaries, youth ambassadors, volunteers, and chapter teams. The Partnerships for Happiness virtual gala was hosted by the Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Grand Rapids, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia chapters.

Established in 2000, Akshaya Patra is the world's largest NGO school meal program providing hot, nutritious lunches to over 1.8 million children throughout India. It costs just \$20 to feed a child for an entire school year. Since the COVID-19 lockdown began on March 24th, 2020, Akshaya Patra has served more than 122 million meals to migrant workers, its beneficiaries and their families.

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Tags

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FOOD FOR EDUCATION