



Asha

for Education

Bringing hope through education

Asha for Education

Silicon Valley Chapter

2019 Annual Report

Message From Our Coordination Team

Dear friends of Asha,

Another great year is coming to an end for Silicon Valley chapter of Asha for Education. In the past 21 years, we have disbursed over 7.7 million \$ to 129 unique projects, giving hundreds of thousands of children an opportunity to realize their potential.

We owe a lot to our Team Asha programs for their dedication and effort. We had record fundraising this year. For the first time ever we added Climbing to our TA program which was a great success. Our fundraising grew stronger and our Team Asha programs raised 25% more than last year. We added 5 more projects and concluded few others. We also made sweeping changes to the way we deal with our existing projects; changes that we think will make us more efficient and effective. Above all, we added a number of new and enthusiastic volunteers to our chapter, some of who will drive this chapter in the years to come.

We are constantly trying to learn from others as well. We invited many guest speakers this year from NGOs all over india and they gave us a lot of insight into status of education, ground realities and suggestions which has a great impact to our volunteers and coordinators expertise in the field. We added more fun activities at the chapter meetings to make it more friendly and develop a bonding between the volunteers who are from different backgrounds and meet for the first time.

This year was great, but we have so much more to do. We look forward to your continued support in our mission to catalyze socio-economic change in India through the education of underprivileged children. Thank you!

-Coordination Team, Asha Silicon Valley

2019 Year In Summary

31,552

**Children
Impacted**

14

States Reached

24

**Projects
Supported**

16

Site Visits

10

Fundraisers

1650

Donors

\$638,932

Funds Raised

\$490,545

Funds Disbursed

20,000

Miles Run

75,000

Miles Biked

200

Miles Swum

1500

Miles Climbed

50

**Chapter
Meetings**

200

Volunteers

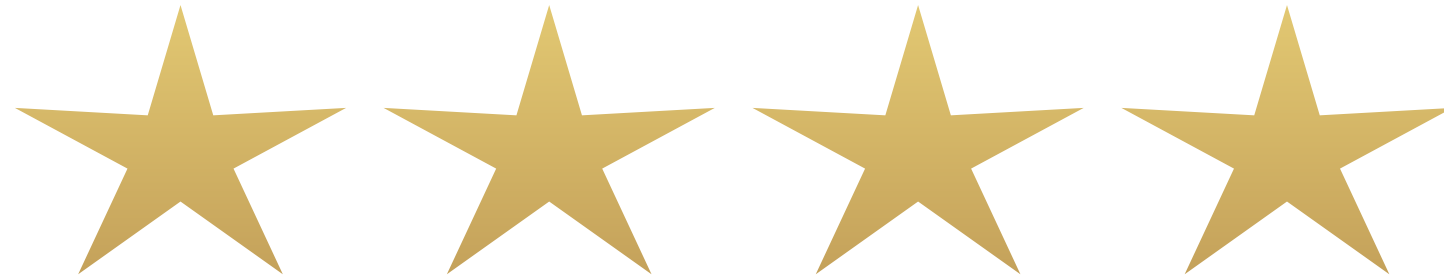
11,800

Volunteer Hours

7

Guest Speakers

CONGRATULATIONS!

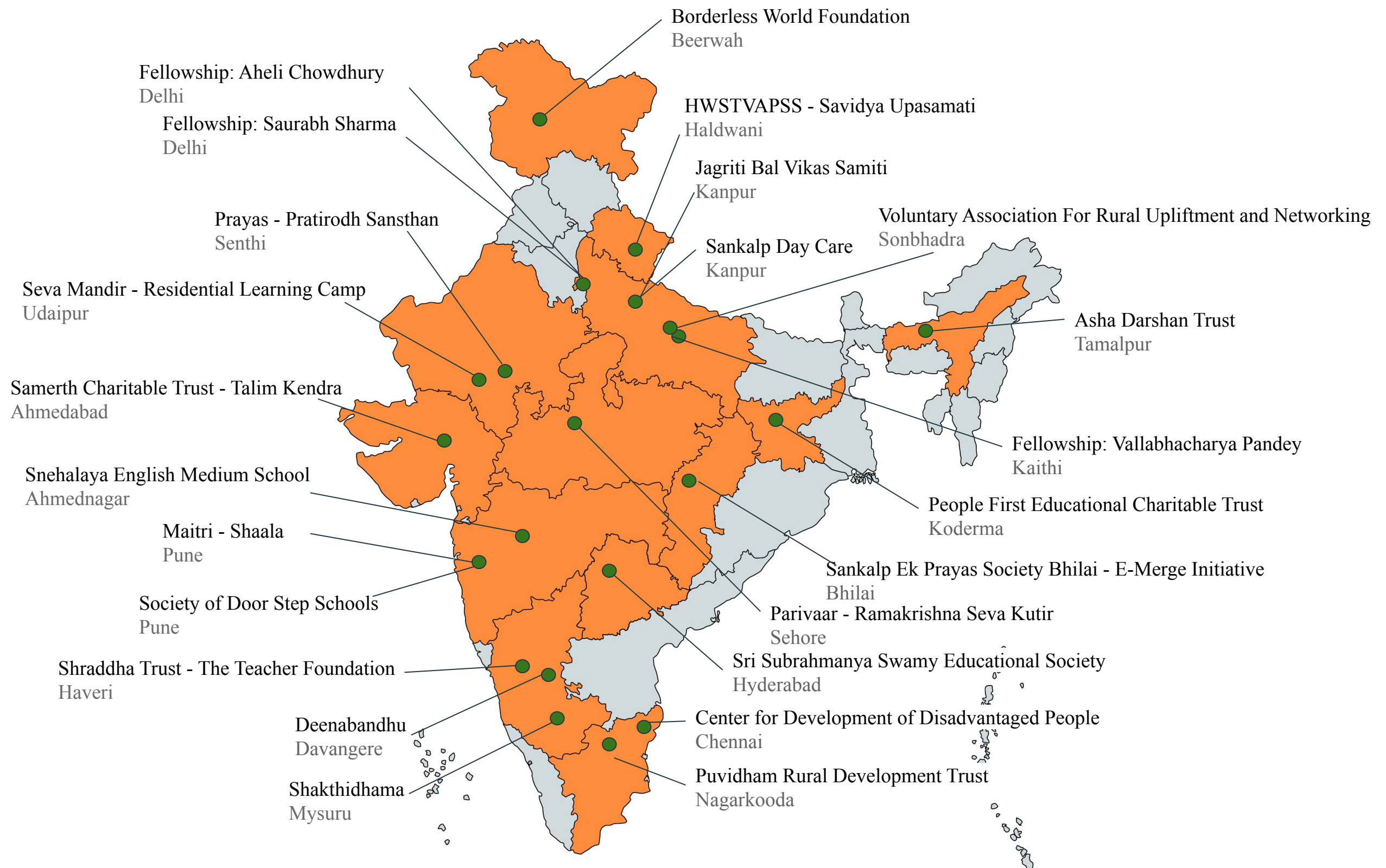


Charity Navigator four star [highest] rating

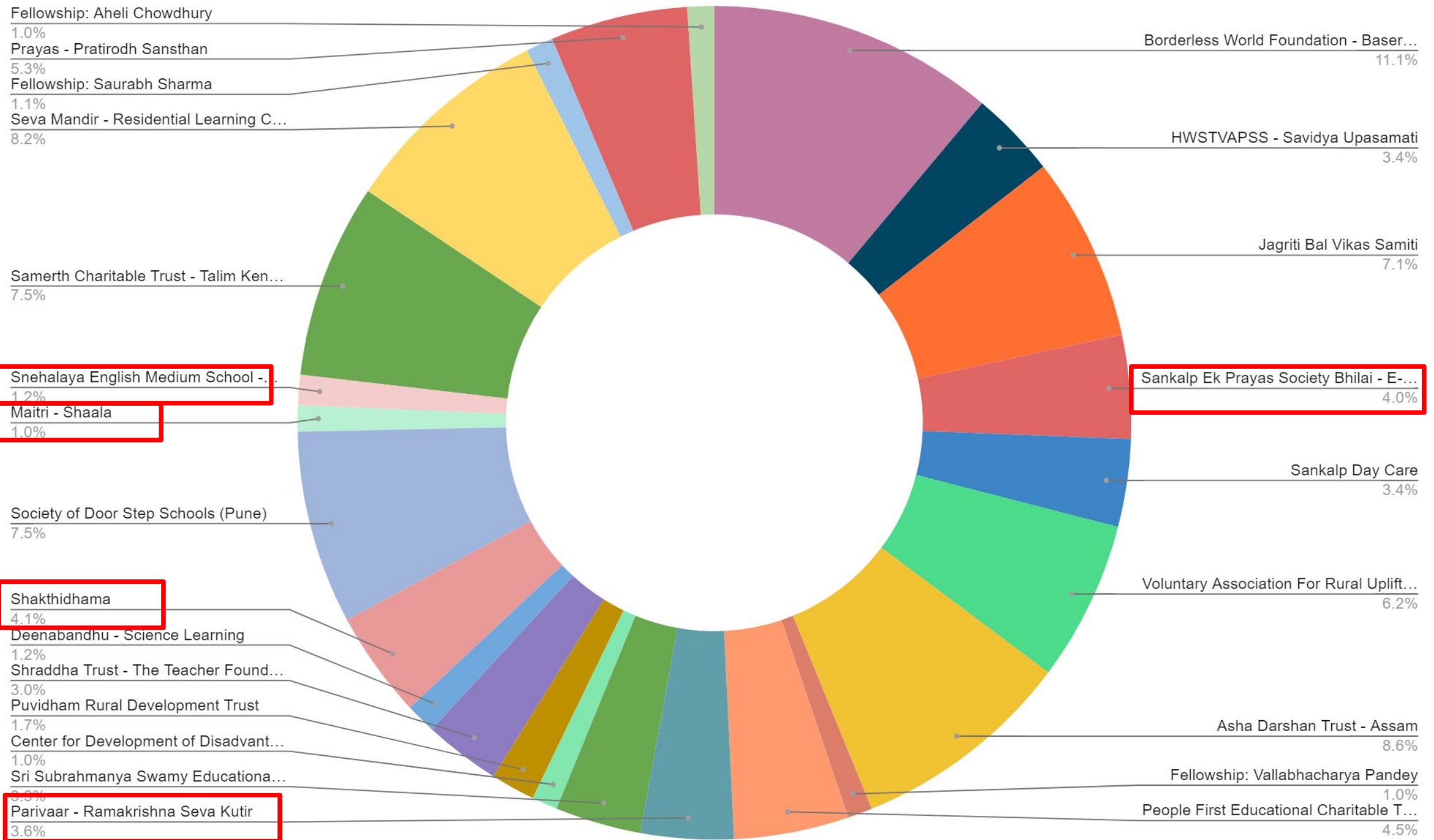


Award for TA Biking program

Projects at a glance

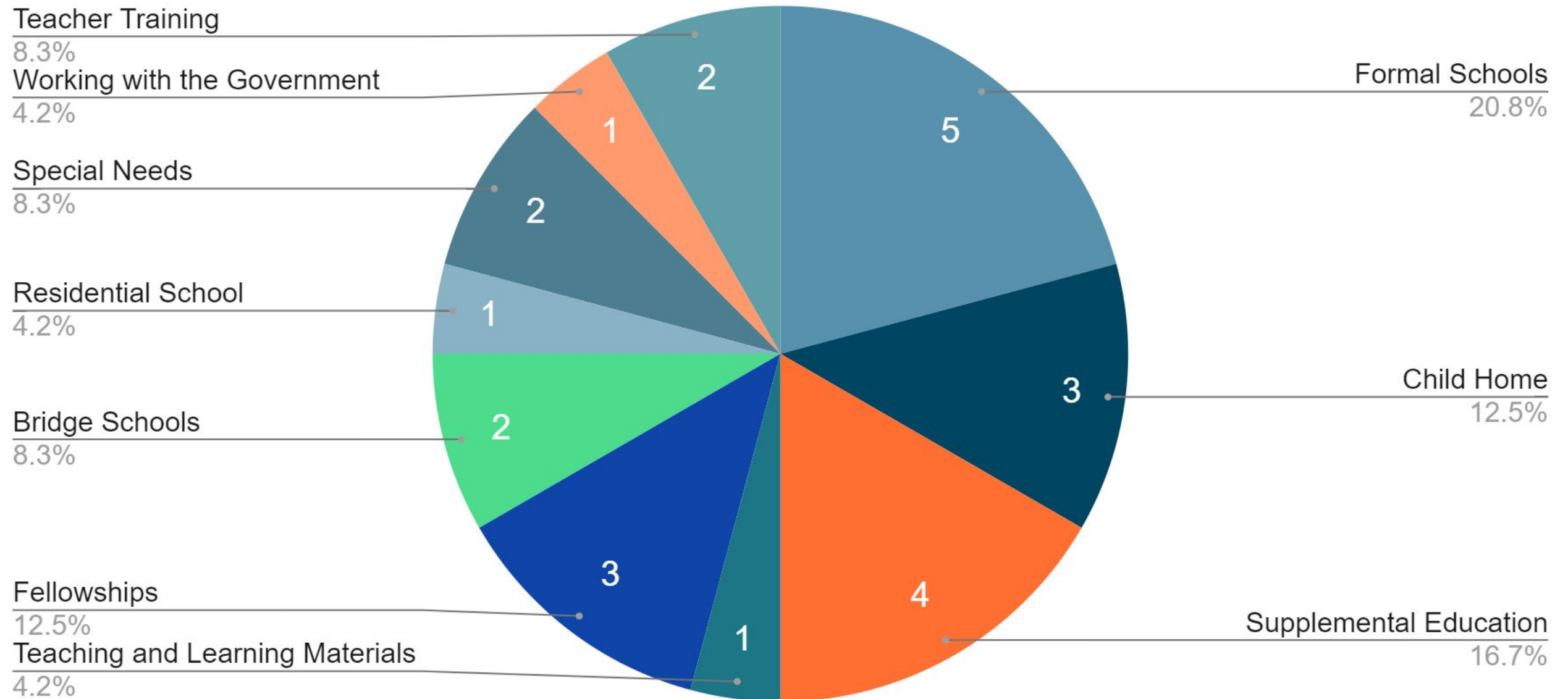


\$490,545 disbursed



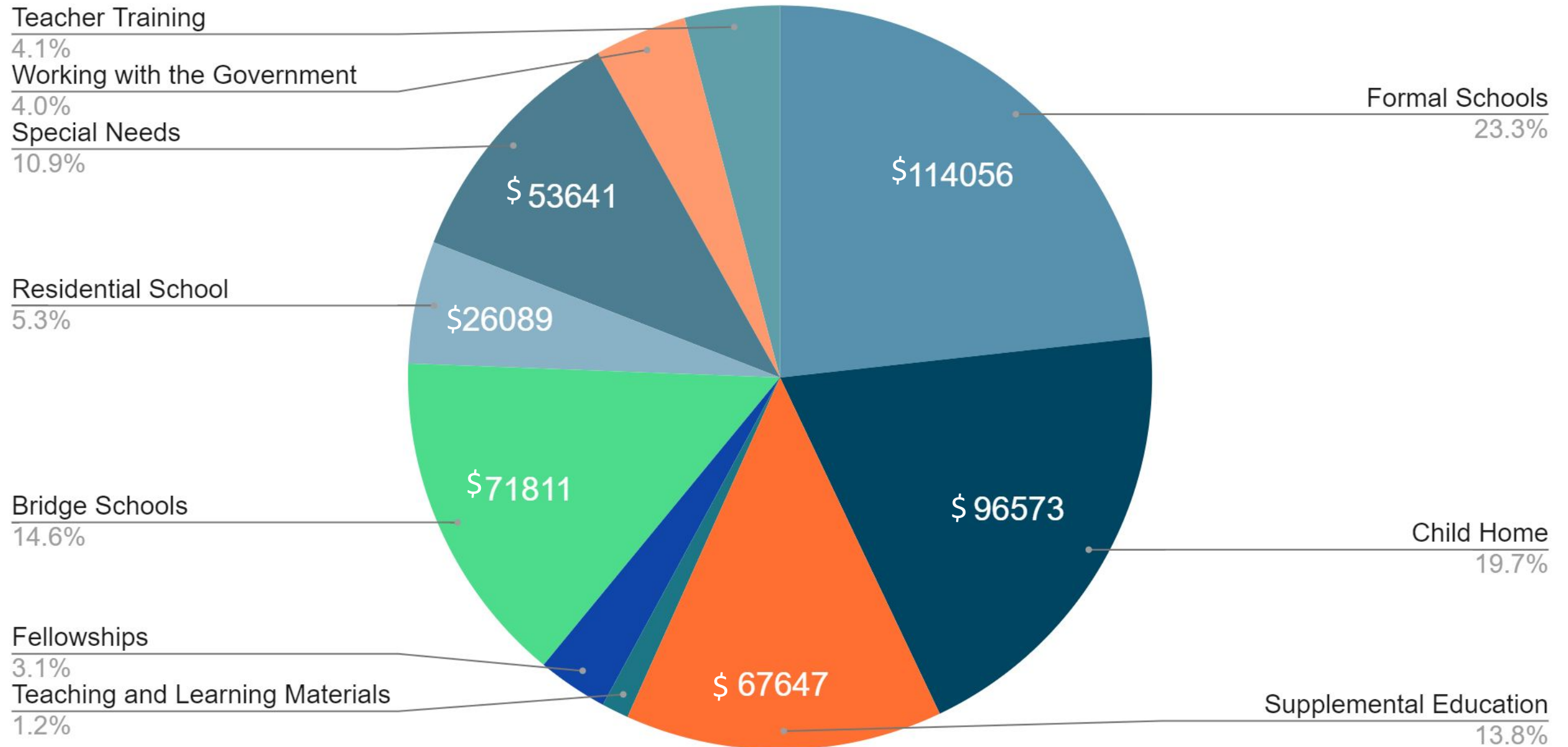
New projects in 2019 highlighted

Project Categories



We have reduced 'Formal Schools' projects by 50% this year

Project Categories \$



Project Highlights

- Streamlining of project disbursement process in 2018 showed qualitative and quantitative results this year
- We had all renewals within first 6 months and final disbursals before 30th Nov
- 5 new projects supported
- 6 projects concluded
- Project portfolio focus shift from Formal Schools to Supplemental Education and Working with Government

Success Stories from Project Partners

Sankalp Day Care

Priyanka Bansal, 26 yrs, moderate mental retardation with motor dysfunction esply in legs with speech problem. She used to be absolutely quiet n nonresponsive when she came 2 yrs back. This was more bcoz nobody talked to her much at home. Now she can stand and walk with support, push abdul's wheelchair and do some household work like cutting vegetables, rolling dough to make rotis etc... She also expresses herself through 2-3 word phrases on prompting...

Bulbul Mishra, 21 yrs, mild retardation. She is with us since 11 yrs. She could only eat, drink and manage her toileting needs herself at that time. Now, she can manage her home kitchen work with few verbal instructions and supervision from her mother. She can also read labels on various items, read their price, handle money upto rs 50. She can also make a basic grocery list (knows spellings of most of the common words). Also, she had no speech when she came but now speaks small sentences, although the pitch n tone are not very normal but what she speaks is usually comprehensible.

Success Stories from Project Partners

Rescue Junction

Name- Shivram age- 13 yrs District - Jalpaiguri , West Bengal

He lived at his village and worked with his family as construction labourers. He went to school but due to poverty he went to Kanpur with one of the person from his village who ran a hotel in Kanpur and he started working in the hotel and earned the equivalent of \$2 USD or about 1.50 GBP a day. He worked at the hotel from 4 a.m. in the morning till 8 p.m. in the night and then went to work at his master's house. After doing his work when he went to sleep his drunken master came and harassed him by beating him. After so many beatings he got the courage to run away and came to Gaya station from Kanpur station. When GRP. Gaya found him alone at the station they handed him over to the Rescue Junction. He has been returned to his family but with supervision from the local child welfare committee who are helping him to re-join mainstream education.

Guest Speaker Series



- Prof. Chetan Solanki, IITB
- Rajaraman Krishnan, Asha Chennai
- Dr. Maya Vishwakarma, Sukarma Foundation
- Dr. Ravi Chopra, People's Science Institute
- Lata Patil, Indians for Collective Action
- Dr. Anagha Amte, Lok Biradari Prakalp
- Vinayak Lohani, Parivaar



Events In 2019



Team Asha Climbing Program

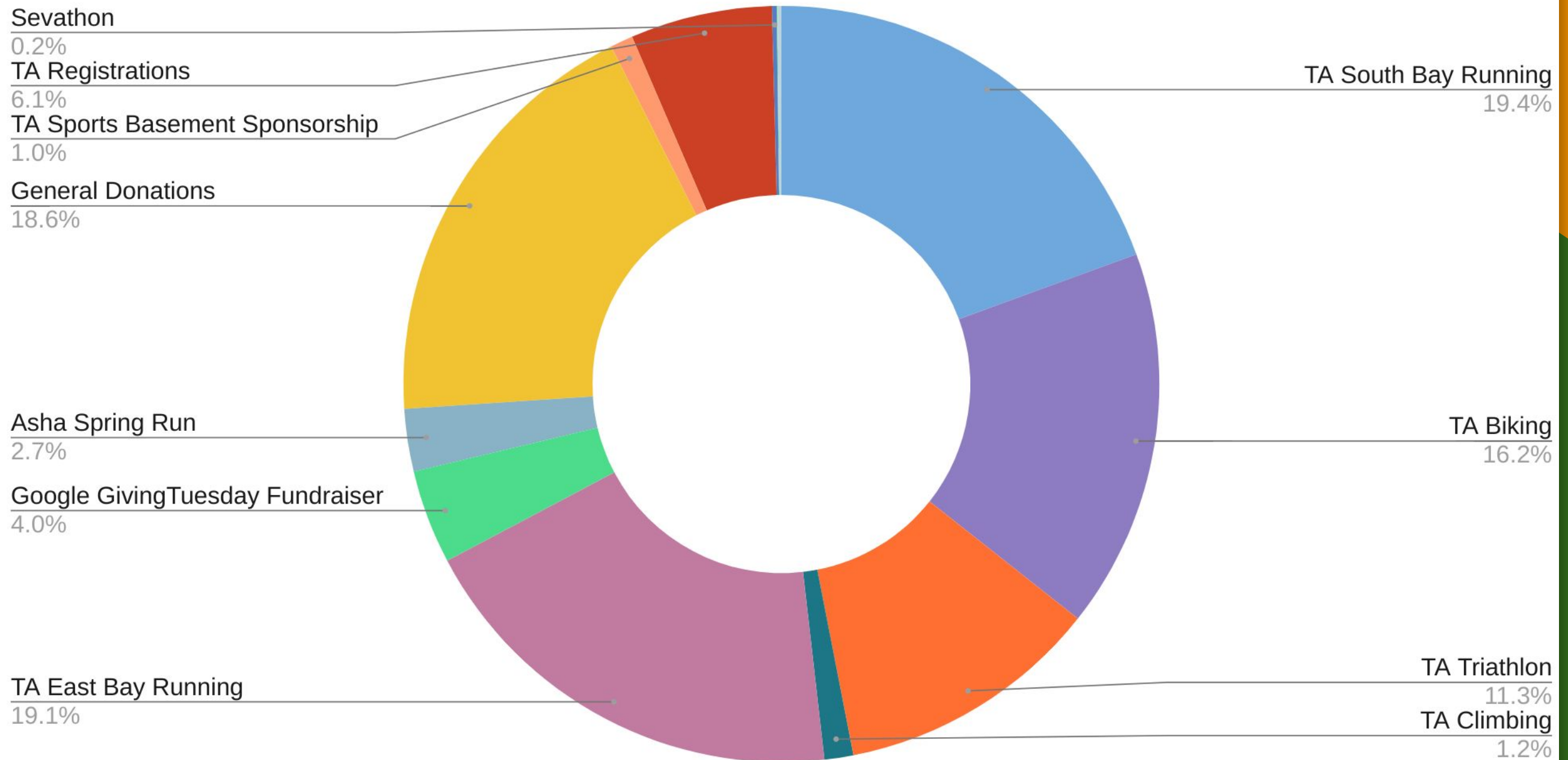
NEW



- Mentored by the Team Asha Seattle Climbing Program
- 14 climbers trained for Mt. Shasta
- Great feedback, continuing and expanding program in 2020

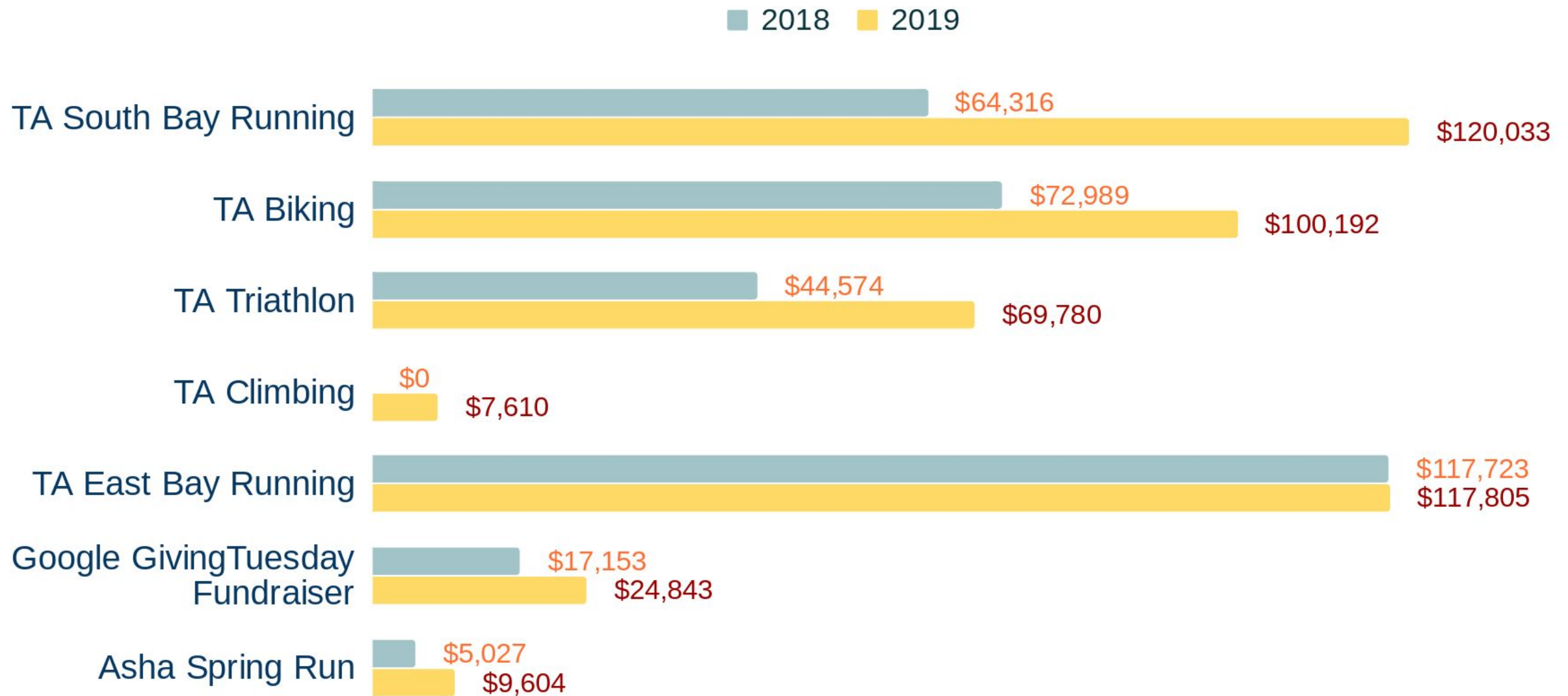


Sources of Funding



\$638,932 funds raised

Stronger Fundraising in 2019



20% YoY increase in Net funds raised

Fundraising Highlights

- 20% YoY increase in Net Funds raised
- 86% YoY increase from Team Asha South Bay Running
- 56% YoY increase from Team Asha Triathlon
- 37% YoY increase from Team Asha Biking
- 44% YoY increase from Google Giving Tuesday Fundraiser
- New Team Asha Climbing program raised \$7,610
- Team Asha Biking program won 'Program of the Year' by Silicon Valley Biking Coalition
- Asha for Education is a charity partner in SF marathon. A huge team of 30+ Asha volunteers hosted the waterstop at mile 8 of SF marathon supporting thousands of runners as they raced to the finish line

Site Visits By Our Volunteers



**Sankalp Ek Prayas
Bhilai, Chattisgarh**



**Shaktidhama
Mysore, Karnataka**



**Basera-E-Tabassum
Jammu & Kashmir**



**VARUN
Chandauli & Sonebadra
Uttar Pradesh**

Site Visits By Our Volunteers



Site Visits By Our Volunteers



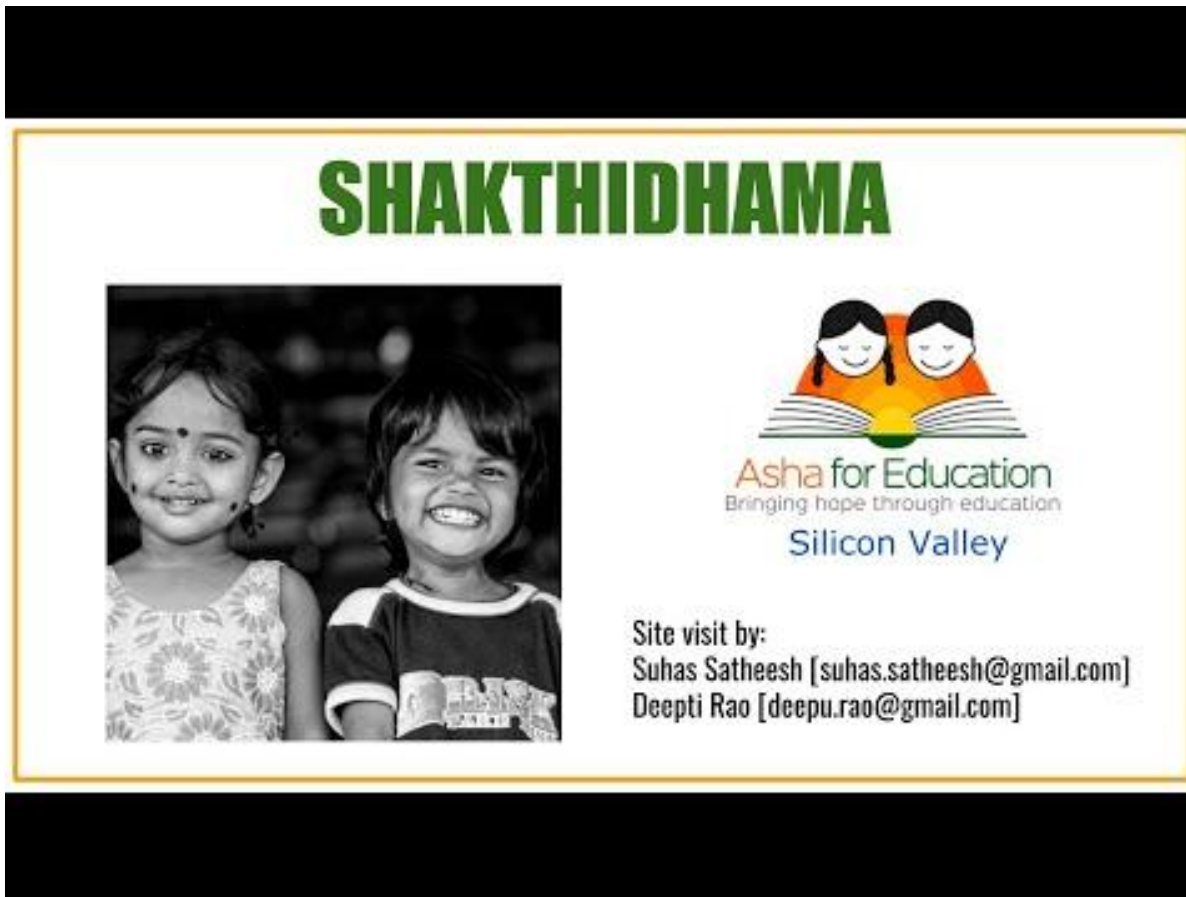
**Deenabandhu
Davangere, Karnataka**



**Seva Mandir
Udaipur, Rajasthan**

Site Visits By Our Volunteers

Shaktidhama



VARUN



Our Volunteers' Stories

Frankly, I joined Team Asha last year for purely selfish reasons! I wanted to learn and do a lot of long distance biking. I joined the training program and not only met but exceeded my personal fitness goals. In the process, I got to know so many of Team Asha volunteers who gave their significant time to help others without expecting anything in return, not even recognition. I had such a life changing experience being part of the program that I felt inspired to give back to the program this year. I became a coordinator (coord) for the biking program and tried my best to get as many folks to join the program, help provide them a great experience through the year, and in turn raise most possible funds to support the projects run by Team Asha in India. My contributions are limited to biking program at this point. I hope to be involved in more areas and Team Asha's direct projects in future years.

Sandeep Sukhija

TA Biking Coordinator 2019

Our Volunteers' Stories

Being a part of Asha SV has given me a plethora of opportunities to contribute towards enabling positive change in India. This year I was involved with organizing a fundraising event, reviewing new project proposals, interacting with NGO founders, applying for foundation grants and helping select new projects for funding. My most enriching experience was when I visited a NGO in rural Chhatisgarh that was selected for funding by Asha Silicon Valley. After two days of touring different schools and spending time with teachers and students, a 7 year old girl with a coy smile walked upto me and said "Mein bade hokar isi school mein computer sikhana chahti hoon"... She is the daughter of daily wage laborers. This interaction humbled me in ways I couldn't have imagined before.

Ranjani Kumar

New Coordinator (Grants and EDU Impact)

Our Volunteers' Stories

I joined Asha few months ago after being recommended by an ex Asha SV member. My motivation to join Asha was very straightforward - I wanted to contribute to the cause of universal access to education in a meaningful way, directly work with grassroots NGOs in India and give back to my home country. Asha Silicon Valley provided me with the opportunity which went beyond that.

One of my first tasks was to evaluate proposals for funding as part of the panel and through healthy debates and discussions, I learned about what makes certain NGOs more effective than others, how these organizations are run and last but not the least, become aware of so many initiatives in India. Today, I feel much more aware of education policies in India and having directly interacted with some of the NGO founders who came as speaker, I am more inspired to continue the work. I am looking forward to working closely with the team and in coming future hopefully steward a project.

Samadrta

New Volunteer

Our Volunteers' Stories

I owe it to dear friend Shabana for nudging me to discover Asha. She had been talking about the program and encouraging me to join for a couple of years. The commitment for fundraising is what stopped me for almost two years before I decided to take the leap of faith in 2015. It's nothing but gratifying and rewarding experience for last 5 years.

First year was more about discovering the dormant athlete in me and completing my first ever half (SFO) and full (CIM) marathons. I also met my running buddy along the way - at the most scenic Sawyer Camp trail; we have been running together since then. What impressed me mightily was the dedication and commitment of all coaches and volunteers who made sure that all participants got the attention they needed and every single person finished the run. The cause Asha strives for was still hazy but it made me join as ops volunteer in second season. This is where my volunteering journey began. The amount of planning and effort operations teams puts in to make sure that each weekday and weekend run goes through without incidence is unbelievable. Selecting, trails, planning runs, permits, supplies, first aid, nutrition and snacks - and yes, even things like dogbites - I am serious 😁! It's been 5 seasons since my first run with Asha - Ops, running mentor, Project Steward and then project coordinator - it's been an amazing journey. I get emotional every time I see the difference our work is making to the lives of these kids who would not have access to education of any sort, or drinking water, or sanitation, or electricity - it's unbelievable. I also feel I have become a better person and my life has changed dramatically - all because of Asha. I have met many, very inspiring human beings, who, without really saying a word, pushed me to do things that I wouldn't have otherwise. The commitment, dedication, strong desire to make a difference to the lives of children and strong sense of responsibility to act rather than sitting on the sidelines - Asha volunteers are embodiment of these qualities. I can think of so many Asha volunteers that have made an impact on my life - it would be a very long list. I am grateful and humbled; I am hoping that I'll be able to continue doing my small bit for years to come.

Sunil Phatak

Projects Coordinator 2019

Fun Activities in Chapter

Celebrating Indian democracy on the night of election results



Karaoke night

Vision 2020

→ Disbursals

- Long-term impact assessment metrics for projects
- Encourage project partners to have third-party evaluation
- Expand project portfolio, specially to improve quality of education in government schools
- Improve inter-project interaction

→ Fundraising

- Build stronger and cohesive Team Asha programs
- Grow our expertise with Team Asha climbing
- Increase FR across all TA programs
- Improve donor relation

→ Spread the word, grow the chapter

Important Links

Chapter Website

sv.ashanet.org

Chapter Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/ashasv

Team Asha Website

sv.ashanet.org/team-asha/

Team Asha Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/teamashasv

Team Asha Instagram Page

www.instagram.com/teamashasv/

Donate

sv.ashanet.org/donors/

Contact us

sv@ashanet.org