



ARAM SEI

Supporting Grassroots Charities Worldwide

ANNUAL REPORT
2020

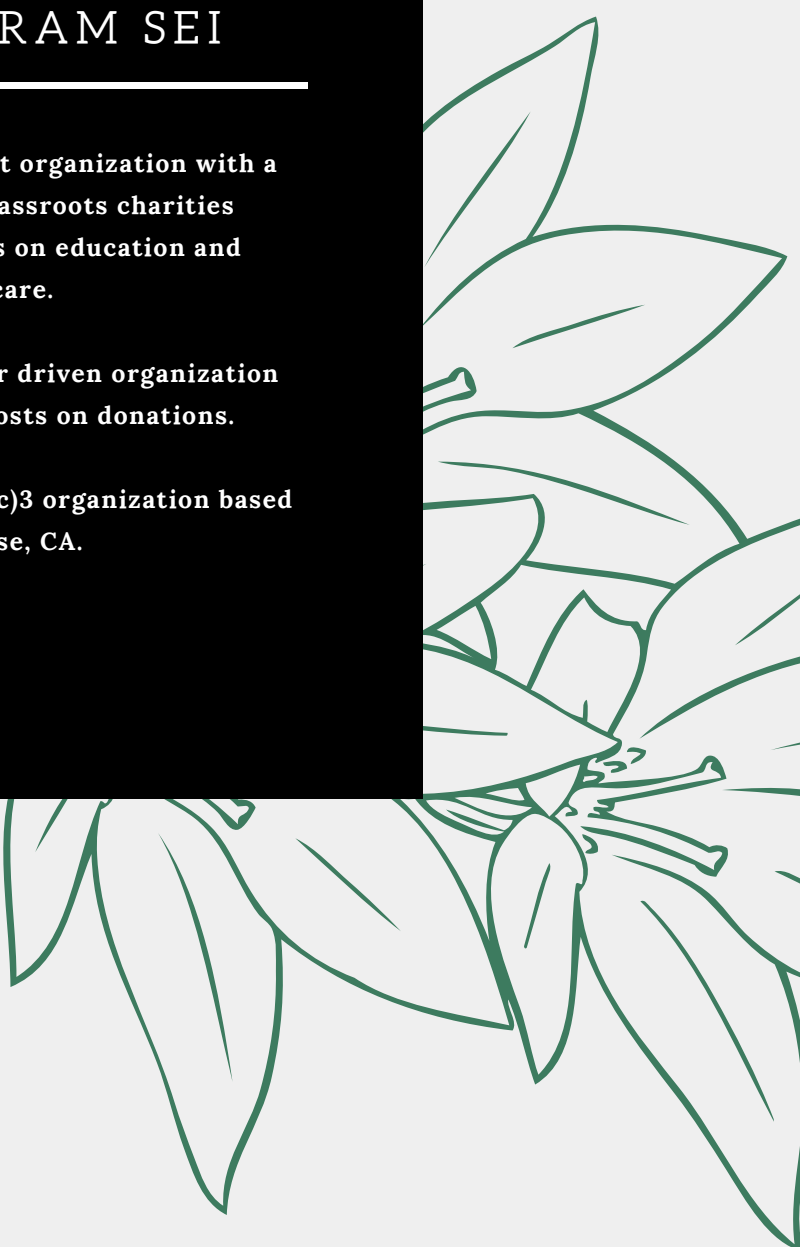


ABOUT ARAM SEI

Aram Sei is a non-profit organization with a vision to support grassroots charities worldwide that focus on education and healthcare.

We are a fully volunteer driven organization with zero overhead costs on donations.

We are a registered 501(c)3 organization based in San Jose, CA.





OUR JOURNEY

Over the years in the early 2000s ([factcheck](#)), our group of passionate volunteers had conducted many fundraisers through entertainment events. Our shared experiences helped us realize that there are many grassroots organizations in communities around the world that are doing wonderful work but struggle to find the resources to keep going.

In January 2012, we founded Aram Sei to help us make a difference in communities worldwide through those grassroots charities by leveraging our fundraising skills. At our core, we believe in sustainability, volunteerism and giving back to society. Our goal is to provide platforms to these organizations that help raise their profiles and drive ongoing support thereby enabling them to sustain their growth. At Aram Sei, our donorship model depends on engaging with our local communities to make the act of paying it forward fun, and we do this through entertainment events for children of all ages.

Over the years, Aram Sei has grown beyond our traditional fundraising model. In 2020, due to the pandemic, we began exploring online fundraisers, webinars, and community engagement programs. These new avenues will help us reach new global audiences and make a difference in additional ways. We are constantly looking for people who are interested in joining our journey as we look to help more people around the world.

We are fortunate to have a large volunteer base in the Bay Area who are supported by their companies through volunteer time and dollar matching programs. Bay Area local businesses such as Madras Café/Groceries, Shasta Foods and MyTravelFare have been our steady supporters since the beginning. Through our concerted efforts, we have been able to support 17 projects over 5 countries with a direct impact on thousands of beneficiaries.



PROJECTS IN 2020

DAILY BOWL - Fremont, California

Daily Bowl is a nonprofit organization that recovers edible fresh and prepared food destined for waste from food providers with big hearts. The recovered food is immediately distributed to receiving agencies who serve the hungry and vulnerable in the Bay Area. These services were more critical due to the COVID-19 crisis which left many people without access to food.

Aram Sei helped scale up their operations to reach 5000 families in the Bay Area that were impacted by the pandemic.

CHUDAR - Chennai, India

Chudar's primary mission is to improve the quality of education for underprivileged kids. With a focus on low-income kids, their program reaches over 5000 kids in Chennai's slums. They run many after school learning centers where kids are provided food and education.

During COVID, Chudar had to pivot to prioritizing providing essentials like groceries, masks and sanitary supplies to the families of daily wage workers who were struggling to make ends meet.

Aram Sei worked with Chudar to support over 200 families by providing them groceries, masks, hand sanitizers and other essential items.





PROJECTS IN 2020

KOLKATA FOUNDATION - Kolkata, India
Kolkata foundation funds efforts towards fighting poverty in Kolkata. Like Aram Sei, they also operate without any overhead costs. They partner with NGO organizations operating in Kolkata and help fund efforts to provide education, health and fight sex trafficking. Last year, Kolkata was struck by Covid-19 and cyclone Amphan that caused large-scale devastation to homes that left families without access to food or shelter.

Through Aram Sei's partnership, we were able to feed 300 families in and around Kolkata.

CHALOGIVE - India

Indiaspora's "ChaloGive for COVID-19" initiative to fight hunger successfully raised \$1 million within ten days thanks to an outpouring of support from the diaspora. One of the donations that helped Indiaspora cross the \$1 million threshold came from Aram Sei. As our fellow volunteer put it, "We feel fortunate to be able to make a difference in our country of origin and the country we have embraced and made our home."

Aram Sei's support helped feed hungry families in India through organizations like Goonj and Feeding America.





PROJECTS IN 2020

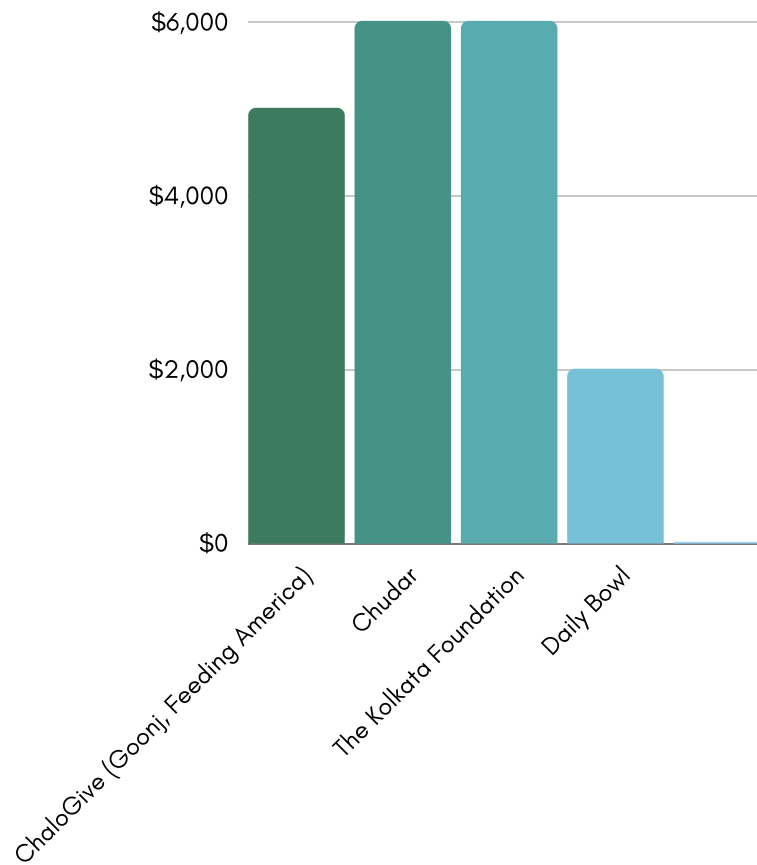
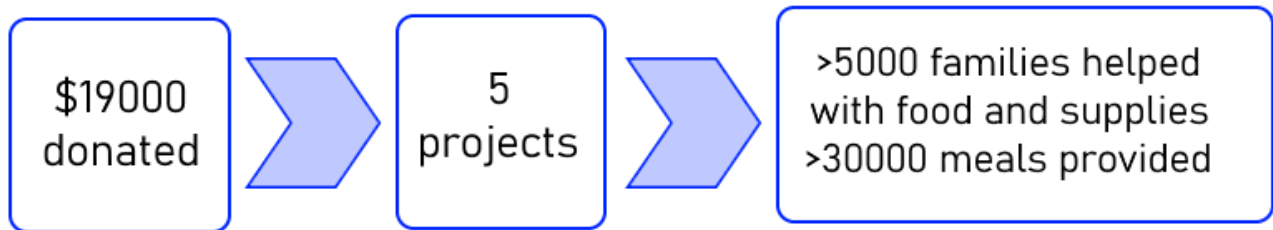
CAREavan - Union City, California

The CAREavan Program provides a safe, overnight parking for people and families living in their vehicles. The program is offered 7 days a week and was one of the two programs that were open in Union City amidst the shelter-in-place restrictions of the early pandemic days. The participants sleep in their vehicles and are provided restrooms that are open to them all night. At some locations, they also have access to showers and laundry facilities. However, there are too many restrictions involved around providing food. Helpful and thoughtful donors step in by bringing in prepared food so that all the participants need to do is warm it up in the microwave if needed. Before COVID-19, CAREavan was receiving 25 vehicles per night. These numbers went up after the onset of the pandemic.

Aram Sei helped support this program for approximately 45-60 participants through the end of the year 2020. Aram Sei expresses its gratitude and thanks to Mrs. Anuradha Sridhar, Director, Trinity Center for Music and parents of her students for helping us with the CAREavan program!



PROJECTS IN 2020





EVENTS IN 2020

ACTIVATING YOUTH

Aram Sei knows that one of the most important parts of our community is our youth. The Activating Youth project gives benevolent youth a platform to speak about what they are doing and spread awareness about their cause. We help aspiring youth create a marketing plan for their non-profit and help them gain important connections with similar individuals to further their success.

SING IN PLACE

Once COVID-19 caused everyone to shelter in place, Aram Sei's plans for the rest of the year was disrupted. Aram Sei decided to hold an event that could take place at home, and then give the profits from the event to COVID-19 relief fundraisers. This event was called Sing In Place. Children from across the country participated in a singing competition. Each elimination round had a theme, such as film songs from any Indian movie from the year 2000 and before. We were lucky enough to get experience judges for the competition and wonderful, enthusiastic participants. Aram Sei ultimately raised \$3,486 for COVID-19 relief projects.





EVENTS IN 2020

UNCF Panel

Aram Sei held a panel with UNCF about careers in the tech industry. The panel was held at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tech Innovation Summit. Our speakers were Vidhya Navalpakkam, Balaji Natarajan, Siva Subramanian, and Smitha Prasad. Vidhya is a senior researcher at Google AI. She leads an interdisciplinary team that works in the fields of Computer Science, Psychology, and Neuroscience. Balaji is a senior manager at Velodyne LiDAR. He manages the Digital Systems team. He also has numerous patents in FPGA architecture and memory testing. Siva is a senior director at Box, which is a leading cloud content management company. He heads the security and compliance products team. Smitha is a tech leader who enjoys creating products. She currently manages an engineering team at F5 networks. All four of these panelists are a few inspiring examples of how far anyone can get in their field with passion and love for their work.

Grow Together

To kickoff 2021, Aram Sei decided to hold a 21-day Grow Together Challenge. Participants would pick a habit they wanted to develop for the new year, and they would start doing it for 21 days with the support of the rest of the community. We raised \$171 in total and created a new habit we will continue for the rest of our lives.

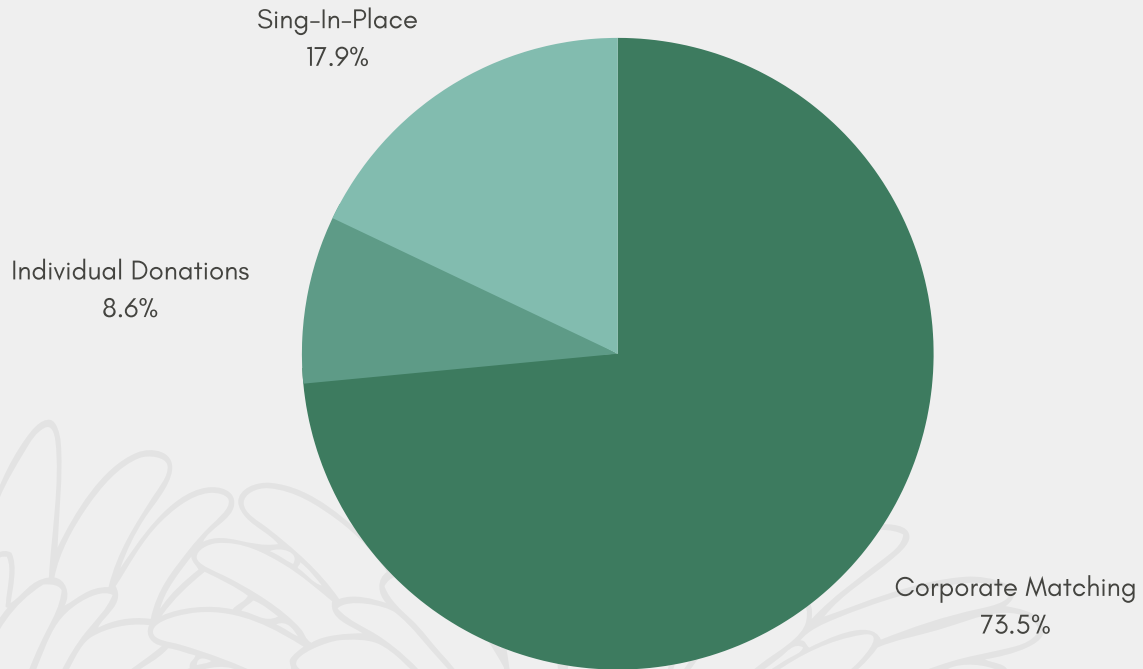




EVENTS IN 2020

South Asians for Black Lives is a webinar series raising awareness about racial injustice in our world and how to help the black community make long-term reform. The series features important conversations such as, “How can influence change?” and “As a person of color, this happens to me too.” The webinar sessions go over a history of injustice and discuss what we can do to make a change for the future. In the first session, we covered the history of the Black community starting with slavery and the impactful contributions the community has made to society. This session focused on educating people who might not have been aware of the innovators and technologists in the Black community who shaped the world we live in now. The moderator for this panel was Anirvan Chatterjee, who is a technologist, activist, and storyteller from Berkeley, CA. We also held another session for teens, so that they could know how to make their thoughts heard and to empower them to use their voices to change the future. In the second session, members of the Black community spoke about the intersection between the South Asian and Black community. We discussed the shared history and how we can be allies for the Black community. The moderator for this session was Anu Natarajan, who is an ex-council member and Vice Mayor of Fremont. The panelists were Maya Perkins, governance, public policy and communications strategist, Colleen Tiffenson, a Restorative Justice Facilitator, and Lorna Harris-Fox, a compliance and ERG leader. In the final part of the series, a community leader spoke about how we as technologists, professionals, parents, and leaders can make long-term changes for the future. The speakers were Anu Natarajan, MR Ranjaswami, a software executive, investor, entrepreneur, corporate eco-strategy expert, community builder, and philanthropist, and Linton Johnson, the founder of Otis, an award-winning journalist, entrepreneur, and a communications executive. These webinars were important and effective in educating people on how to fight against injustices and make change happen.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



ARAM SEI HAD 21
UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL
DONORS MAKING 32
TOTAL DONATIONS
THIS YEAR.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

Sing In Place had a total of 70 registrations.

The UNCF panel had a total of 250 participants.

The South Asians for Black Lives event had 110 participants for each of the three webinars. There were 50 participants for the children's webinar and 25 for the youth.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

NEW BEGINNINGS!

In 2020, Aram Sei started something new and exciting when we launched our first internship program. The Aram Sei internship program is a 6-month program where interns learn more about different aspects of running a non-profit organization through a combination of theory and practical experience. Interns commit to dedicate 8 hours per month for the 6-month period of their internship.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



MAYA SRIRAM

My name is Maya Sriram and I'm in 9th grade. Aram Sei has taught me a lot about how smaller nonprofits operate, specifically how they deal with finance and general management. I've learned a lot about the many moving parts that go into running a business!

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



ANANYA BALAJI

My name is Ananya and I'm in the ninth grade. One of my big takeaways from the internship was in learning how to manage and organize a project. I also learned a lot about project expansion and creative content making. The professional skills I've learned here have helped me in many ways!

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



AADHYA SRIDHARAN

My name is Aadhya Sridharan, and I am in 10th grade. The biggest thing that I learnt in this internship is how to manage and conduct an event, and also how to promote it and advertise for it. I am so grateful to have gotten this experience, and thank Aram Sei for the amazing opportunity.

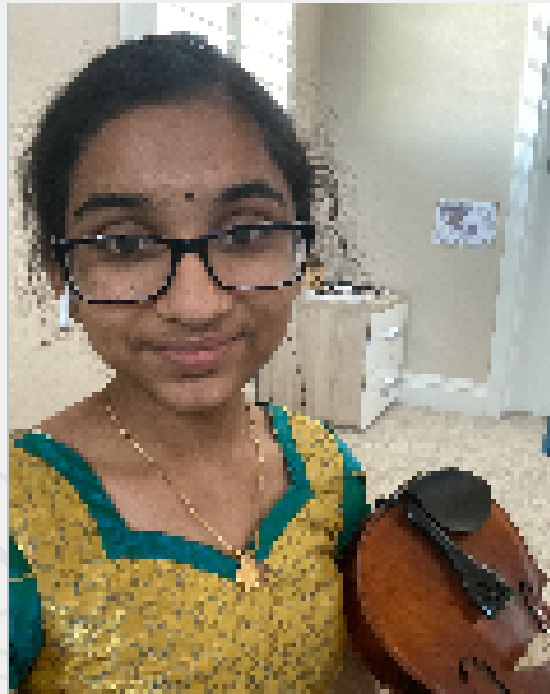
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



SANDHYA PADMANABHAN

My name is Sandhya Padmanabhan. I am in 8th grade. During my time as an intern, I was able to see how different parts of a non-profit work together to create an event and how every aspect of an event depends on each other. Getting to intern at Aram Sei was a wonderful experience!

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



KRITHIKA MURALIDHAR

My name is Krithika and I am a sophomore at Dublin High School. In this internship, I have gained insights into how nonprofits like Aram Sei find sustainable ways to support grassroots charities while gaining beneficiaries. Throughout the past 6 months, I've learned more about media creation, event planning, as well as the ways with which non-profits develop projects given their resources. I am so grateful to Aram Sei for exposing me to various facets of leadership and community engagement!


INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



HRISHIKESH ANAND

Hi, My name is Hrishikesh Anand and I am in 9th grade. Aram Sei has been a wonderful experience and an eye opener for me. One of the most important things I learned was how to build a website for a non profit Organization.

Furthermore, I have also learned how to organize and collaborate as a team for the betterment of the community.



At Aram Sei, we are always interested in
hearing your thoughts and feedback.

Please drop us an email at info@aramsei.org!