

# WHAT GIVES?

By ROSHNI HANNON roshni.hannon@gmail.com

On any given day if you turn on the television and watch the first 5 minutes of the news, I am willing to bet money that most of us would have the same reaction: sadness, disgust and disappointment. That's what made the Indo-US Chamber's panel discussion on non-profit organizations so extremely poignant and powerful. In a time when there is so much dismal and negative information clogging our airwaves and distorting our points of view, here are a group of people who have dedicated their lives to doing something positive. It was an honor to moderate the discussion with representatives from Project Starfish, Heartbeat International, Khushi Hona and Akshaya Patra. Each of these non-profits is committed to raising awareness and solving the problems plaguing India.

As each panelist introduced themselves, one thing became crystal clear: Brad Vanrooyen, Ryan Neubauer, Kathryn Kepes and Fazal Dasankop have the fuel that we all need when it comes to our goals. Whether it's work, school or exercise, you need passion. All four panelists have committed their life's work to solving India's hunger, employment and childhood poverty problems. The amount of work they have accomplished was amplified when they talked about the amount of work they have yet to do.

The panelists shared their biggest struggles: retaining and engaging donors, sustainability and not having enough resources. Thanks to social media and the evolution of technology, nonprofit organizations have more resources than ever at their disposal to identify and build lasting relationships with potential donors. That might sound like it would translate into more money. But, having all the resources in the world doesn't make people give — or convince them to keep giving — when budgets are tight. We must give.

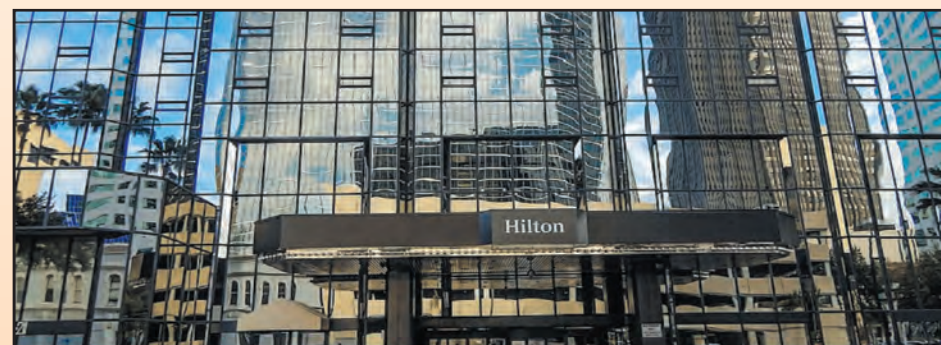


Just because you have a great mission doesn't guarantee that you'll be around for years. So isn't it up to our community to ensure these non-profits not only survive, but that they succeed? And success for the future begins with today's youth. It's up to us to raise a generation that understands what is happening in India. Pictures aren't enough. Someone in the audience made the most profound statement



of the evening. He said that we moved to America for a better life, but in the process most of us have forgotten our roots. Of all the struggles nonprofits face, sustainability is one that we can strengthen. Not every business endeavor is about turning a profit — in the case of nonprofit organizations, it's all about giving back — so do your part. I know I will.

To contribute in anyway or just to educate yourself, you can read about the organizations on their websites: Project Starfish [www.prstarfish.org](http://www.prstarfish.org), Khushi Hona [www.khushihona.org](http://www.khushihona.org), Heartbeat International [www.heartbeatinternational.org](http://www.heartbeatinternational.org), Akshaya Patra [www.akshayapatra.org](http://www.akshayapatra.org)



## Banyan Ball 2015 Award nominations

Individuals shall be recognized for their hard work, contributions and efforts to the Indo-US Community or are of Indian descent working in the state of Florida. The Awards are presented based on the categories listed below:

- Businessman of the Year
- Not-Profit/ Social/Community Awareness
- Businesswoman of the Year
- Professional Under 35

Mail their submissions to: Indo-US Chamber of Commerce, 10006 Cross Creek Blvd #444, Tampa, FL 33647 or [www.indo-us.org](http://www.indo-us.org)

### Sponsorship Opportunities

1/4 page ad in booklet (logo and ad details to be provided by company)	\$250
1/2 page ad in booklet (logo and ad details to be provided by company)	\$500
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Back page ad in booklet - LIMIT 1 (logo and ad details to be provided by company)	\$1,000
DEALS	PRICE
2 Ticket deal - 2 tickets and 1/4 page ad	\$650
Table deal - table and full page ad	\$2,250
2 Table deal - 2 tables and full page ad PLUS special feature of logo on screen banner	\$4,500
Beverage Sponsor - 2 tickets and 1/4 page ad, plus logo on screen banner and Corporate banner on Drinks Station. Four available.	\$2,500

# BANYAN BALL 2015

September 26, 2015

6:30 pm

THE HILTON, DOWNTOWN TAMPA



Ticket prices: Table \$2,000 • Single \$225  
For sponsorship: please call 813 841 9216

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



SEEMA JAIN, CPA

## MEET SEEMA JAIN, CPA

Seema Jain is an accomplished CPA. With more than 20 years of experience, she has helped several individuals and businesses in the Tampa Bay area, as well as out of state and international clients. She is the founder and partner of Axiom Business Consulting LLC, a well-established CPA firm in Tampa. Jain was inspired to start her own CPA firm because she believed in empowering and helping individuals and businesses with their taxes and finances on a one to one level, and wanted to use her entrepreneurial skills. Jain transitioned from the large corporate environment to serving businesses and individuals nine years ago. She also does significant work in state and IRS appeals, tax resolutions and negotiations.

Jain's expertise coupled with her designation makes her well-equipped to provide businesses with quality business consulting, tax and accounting services. Her vision for influencing and helping clients save in taxes at a personalized

level is remarkable. She earned an Accounting Degree (BAS) from York University in Canada and her Chartered Accountant designation in 1993 from Ontario, Canada. She obtained her CPA designation in 2006 in Florida. Having both a CA and CPA designation has added significant value in assisting businesses with parents or subsidiaries in Canada, India and the UK, as well as assisting individuals with the Foreign Reporting requirements. Jain values philanthropy and is an active member within the Tampa Bay community. In addition, she has served on many boards. She advises that when choosing a CPA for your accounting and tax needs, ensure the CPA is licensed and has the expertise to assist you! Let the experts do the taxes and accounting and ensure you are in compliance with the ever changing tax laws, while you focus on your business!

Seema Jain, CPA, can be reached at (813) 395-0089 or email [info@axiombusinessconsulting.com](mailto:info@axiombusinessconsulting.com)

## MONTESSORI AT TRINITY OAKS NOW OPEN

There is a new choice in education for parents interested in a Montessori-style path for their children. It's been Anisha and Pratik Patel's dream to open a school that nurtures a child's intrinsic desire to learn. The Montessori at Trinity Oaks will offer 2-day, 3-day and 5-day full and part-time programs for children ages 2 to 6.

Anisha and Pratik's 4-year-old daughter is enrolled at the school, which opened its doors on Aug. 24. Anisha says she and Pratik "are so thrilled to be able to bring a Montessori school to the Trinity area. Our goal is to inspire a lifelong love for learning and we are very happy to start this journey with all of our students."

Parents have so many choices when it comes to choosing a school. Montessori focuses on the whole child — cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. Introducing your child to Montessori as early as possible puts her on the



right path to becoming a confident, self-motivated learner.

The program at Montessori at Trinity Oaks will provide exploratory, self-directed learning for young children following the world

renowned Montessori curriculum. The school will provide a vibrant and nurturing environment for the children, teachers and parents, where children will learn in an authentic Montessori environment with Montessori materials where children will enjoy learning. In addition to academics, the program will provide art, music, and foreign language, instructed by professionally trained and certified Montessori teachers.

To find out more about the Montessori at Trinity Oaks, visit [www.trinityoaksmontessori.com](http://www.trinityoaksmontessori.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/trinityoaksmontessori](http://www.facebook.com/trinityoaksmontessori). To schedule a tour, call 727-835-7828 or email Anisha and Pratik at [info@trinityoaksmontessori.com](mailto:info@trinityoaksmontessori.com)



## Upcoming Indo-US Chamber Event:

### Banyan Ball

Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Location: Downtown Hilton,  
211 N. Tampa St., Tampa

Emcee is Fox 13 anchor Jennifer Epstein. Sponsorship details are available at [www.indo-us.org/2015-banyan-ball](http://www.indo-us.org/2015-banyan-ball)

## INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

*"To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement."*

## INDO-US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jal Irani, President

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