

KOA Support A Child (SAC) Program

December, 2016





Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

www.koausa.org

Program Director



Pran Kaul, Fremont, California

Program Director

KOA Sponsor-A-Child

Sh. Pran ji Kaul has been involved with several community programs since 1990 in the wake of the exodus of the KP community from Kashmir Valley. Having seen the heart rending plight and abject poverty of the refugees first hand back in 1990 and later, he started the children sponsorship program in 1994-95 with the help of donations from caring members of the community in the US, to help our poor brethren to educate their school going children. The program has grown over the years from supporting about forty children in 1994 to about 350 children at present, thanks to our sponsors. The program was subsequently adopted by KOA a few years ago to allow sponsors to take advantage of tax benefits for their contributions. He continues directing and coordinating the program in US while local liaison in Jammu has been doing so in Jammu.



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Objectives

- To provide tuition, school supplies and living expenses to Kashmiri Pandit school children (K-12) in refugee camps in India.

Program page: <http://koausa.org/koa/programs/sac/>



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History

- The program started in 1995 to bring much-needed financial help to the indigent children of school-going age, from the refugee camps that have sprouted around Jammu in the wake of the exodus of the KP community from Kashmir.
- **Shri Pran N. Kaul** of Fremont, CA maintains a list of children in need of support, with the help of a **local liaison** in Jammu, which he furnishes to prospective sponsors on request.
- In the first year 36 children were supported through this program.



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Sponsors

- Community members and friends of the community are approached to take part in this program by becoming sponsors.
- Some community members have set up foundations in the name of their loved ones and are encouraged to sponsor through their foundations.
- There are some employers who match funds for such non-profit charitable causes. Sponsors are requested to explore such a possibility with their employers.

Every drop helps!



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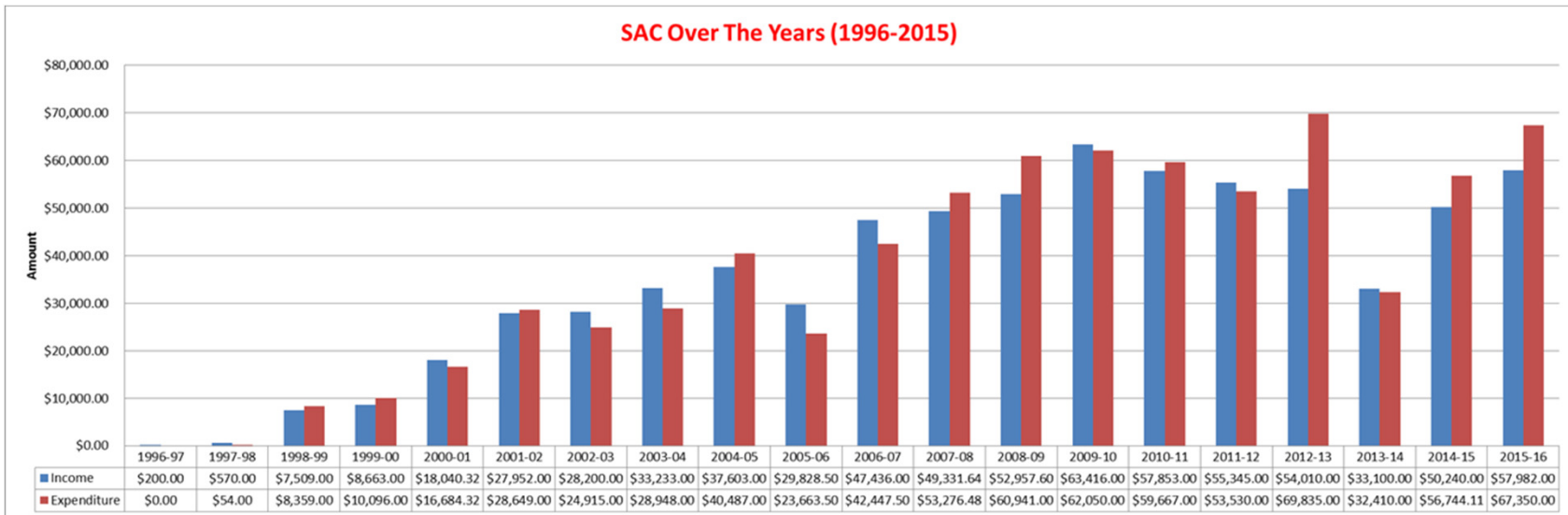
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Cost

- The cost of sponsoring a child was originally pegged down at about \$16 per month.
- During the past few years it has however, become evident that the cost is around \$250 per year.
- **Contributions to the children are tax deductible, if routed through KOA.**



SAC Over The Years





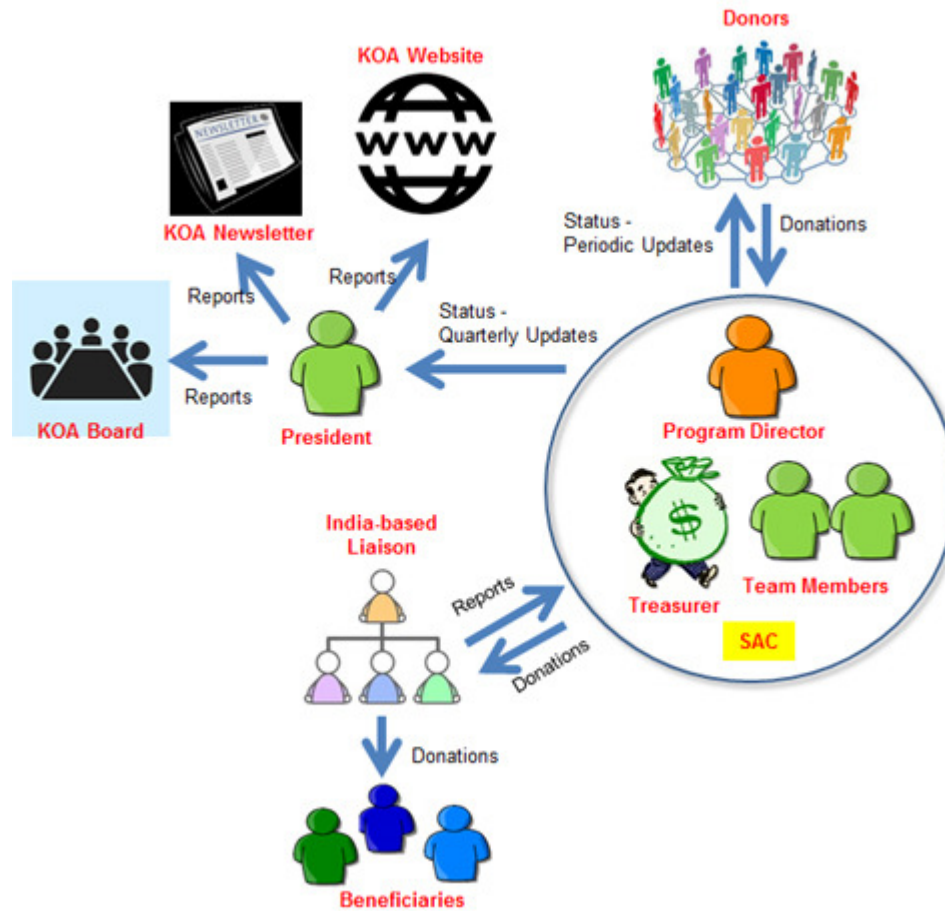
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Process

- Sponsors/Donors select the child they want to support from the list(s) furnished to them by the program coordinator on request.
- Payments are typically made by sponsors every six months, though a great number of them make yearly payments.
- Sponsors are required to mail their checks for the children to Shri Pran Kaul who keeps track of all payments and sends reminders to sponsors to mail their checks when due.
- After receiving checks from sponsors, KOA in turn issues checks in the name of the children, which are mailed to liaison in Jammu, for distribution.

Process





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Conclusion

With a view to fostering rapport between the sponsors and the children supported by them, the children are encouraged and exhorted to write to their sponsors and vice versa. It not only helps the child feel a sense of belonging, but it also provides a unique opportunity to a sponsor to be a mentor to a hapless child who is otherwise adrift in a sea of misery, and without any sense of purpose or direction. Sponsors are expected and encouraged to evince interest in a child's education by keeping track of his or her progress at school by asking for progress reports or marks cards and other similar documents issued by a school periodically.



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Conclusion

KOA appeals to all the community members and friends of the community to rise to the occasion, as the need of providing financial help, counsel and guidance to the children is acute and real. Their parents are invariably either illiterate or lack the wherewithal to be of any help to their children. Our responsibility and commitment to these children is not just limited to mailing checks to them, but we have to play a much broader role in shaping their future, otherwise a whole generation will be lost for good. It is our duty to help a fellow KP in need; we owe this to ourselves and to our community. The time to make a difference is now, not tomorrow or a year from now. Needless to say, this is the best way to help our less fortunate brethren back home. KOA thanks all the sponsors who have supported the children over the past several years and take active interest in the welfare of the children. We would like to utilize this opportunity to appeal to others who have preferred to remain on the sidelines, to step on the plate and bring much-needed succor to a fellow KP in need and in a state of abject penury. If you are not a sponsor yet, please become one.

Your community needs you.

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Social Media

YAHOOGROUP: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/koahealthcare/info>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/KOAorg>

YOUTUBE: <http://www.youtube.com/user/sathyuk>

FACEBOOK PAGES:

KOA: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/koausa>

Youth: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koayouth>

Healthcare Network: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koahealthcare>

Entrepreneurs: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/koaentrepreneurs>

LINKEDIN FOCUS GROUPS:

KOA Healthcare Partners Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559527>

KOA Technology Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559541>

KOA Entrepreneur Focus Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559545>

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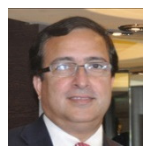
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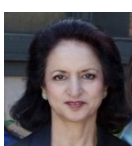
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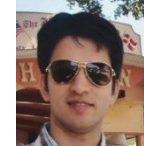
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