

## Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

### www.koausa.org

KOA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (Federal Tax ID 52-1294852), socio-cultural organization of Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) residing in the United States. It serves as the premier Kashmiri Pandit institution with a fundamental purpose that lies in promoting Kashmiri Pandit heritage and its way of living, and a center of social learning that caters to the spiritual, cultural, physical, humanitarian and educational needs of the community.

### Executive Committee

SUNIL FOTEDAR President, CEO & Chairman of Board

SUDESH SARAF Vice President

AJAY TIKOO Secretary

RAJEEV KAUL Treasurer

### **Board of Directors**

DR. ANIL MATTOO Director, Zone 1

DR. SUDESH KAUL Director, Zone 2

NIRJA SADHU Director, Zone 3

DR. SHAKUN MALIK Director, Zone 4

RANDHIR WOKHLU Director, Zone 5

SURESH SUS Director, Zone 6

SUDESH SARAF Director, Zone 7

VEENA KAUL Director, Zone 8

MANEESHA MUNSHI Director, Zone 9

PIYUSH MATTOO Director, Zone 10

### **KOA Flood Relief Effort - Final Report**

December 23, 2016

Dear Members,

Namaskaar!

In September 2014, as you know, our homeland Kashmir witnessed unprecedented floods. Like so many around the world, KOA also initiated a funds drive to help out our unfortunate brethren that were directly affected by these floods. KOA is indebted to the following organizations and members who came forward to contribute a total of **\$54225.80** towards the KOA's initiative towards Flood relief efforts and some for India-outreach program (see Table 1):

**TABLE 1: Total Donations Collected** 

Donors	Amount Comme				
S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$	2,835.00	Fund A		
S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$	25,000.00	Fund A		
CHILDREN'S HOPE INDIA INC	\$	10,000.00	Fund A		
KOA Members (India-outreach)	\$	851.00	Fund A		
Sh. Ravi Mattu	\$	5,000.00	Fund A		
KOA Members (Flood relief)	\$	6,339.80	Fund B		
Shirdi Sai Parivaar	\$	4,200.00	Fund B		
Total	\$	54,225.80			

With GoI being best equipped to respond to the acute needs post flood we were advised to focus on the long term chronic needs of the community which would not make headline news and would therefore suffer from neglect. We divided the moneys into Fund A and Fund B (as shown in Table 1 above), the latter being focused on deserving individual beneficiaries facing critical humanitarian needs. As far as the chronic needs are concerned, we had **Sh. Rakesh Kaul Sr**, KOA Program Director for India Outreach program, consult with the donors and we obtained their concurrence to fund the programs such as Jagati Middle School and heritage center platform programs.

To get started with the aid distribution, such items as gas stoves, solar lamps and warm clothes (sweater, blankets, etc. were distributed in three separate installments among the flood-affected victims in village, Saddal, at Panjar in district Udhampur through the efforts of AIKS volunteers (see Table 2).



Kashmiri Overseas Association, Inc.

### **TABLE 2:Distributions through AIKS**

9/16/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 4,925.00
12/22/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 1,300.00
1/5/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 1,445.00
	Total	\$ 7,670.00

Please visit the following link for details and pictures:

http://koausa.org/koa/programs/india-outreach/floodrelief/

with additional pictures in zipped format (174MB) at:

http://koausa.org/programs/floodrelief.zip

Total donation was worth **\$7670**, out of which **\$1480.79** is proportional to the flood relief fund collected from Shirdi Sai Parivaar and US-based KOA members combined (Fund B) and \$6,189.21 from Fund A (see Table 3).

Table 3: Balance in each Fund after disbursement to AIKS

Fund	Amount Raised	Portion paid to AIKS for Flood Relief	Balance
Fund A	\$ 43,686.00	\$ 6,189.21	\$ 37,496.79
Fund B	\$ 10,539.80	\$ 1,480.79	\$ 9,059.01
Total	\$ 54,225.80	\$ 7,670.00	\$ 46,555.80

Though we sent some relief initially through AIKS, but we needed some help from an organization that actually worked in Kashmir valley and could distribute relief to KPs in the valley. This is where we used services of **Yakjah** - an organization run by **Ashima ji Kaul** - to distribute flood relief funds to some deserving cases in Kashmir. Ashima ji is an independent journalist and peace practitioner and managing director of **Yakjah**, with volunteers from the regions of Delhi, Jammu and Valley mobilizing friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues and strangers through Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, word of mouth to donate for flood relief. **Yakjah** identified the following KP beneficiaries still living in Kashmir that were in dire need of financial need (Table 4).

Ashima ji's reporting and status of the cases have been exemplary to say the least - she sent us complete details, pictures, audio as well as video clips. I have *zipped* everything together and uploaded to the following link for you to download from (162MB in size total):

http://koausa.org/yakjah/Yakjah Flood Relief.zip

Table 4: Donation paid directly to beneficiary through AIKS and Yakjah:

Beneficiaries	Amount Donated from Fund B	Shirdi Sai Parivaar Contribution
Flood relief victims in Saddal, at Panjar in district Udhampur (AIKS)	\$ 1,480.79	\$ 242.05
Satish Thotha (Yakjah)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,747.44
Shanti Dhar (Yakjah)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 873.72
Ashok Kaul (Yakjah)	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 672.76
Tej Krishan Kaul (Yakjah)	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 489.28
BL Dhar (Yakjah)	\$ 400.00	\$ 174.74
Total	\$ 10,540.79	\$ 4,200.00

In addition, please download the attached PDF presentation on the distribution of flood relief funds to victims in Kashmir identified by *Yakjah*. I shared this presentation with Shirdi Sai Parivaar representative **Sh. Anand Iyer**, and this is what he has to say about our efforts and reporting:

"...I reviewed the email and also the powerpoint presentation. Both look great. Thanks for providing such detailed information regarding SSP fund disbursement. This is the first that an organization has provided such detailed information. We really appreciate your efforts and following up on the funds that was provided to KOA...."

After seeking Donors' permission, the remaining balance of **\$37496.79** (Table 5 below) was transferred to **Sharika Trust** in Jammu in 2 separate instalments of \$20000 and \$17496.79 for Jagti Project (click on link below for a presentation):

https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=778282383D7D4388!137405&ithint=file, pptx&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!AJRnObt9ZUBNbGw

**Table 5: Remaining balance** 

Name	Initial	 ood Relief entribution	Balance	Comments
S V B FOUNDATION INC	\$ 2,835.00	\$ 401.65	\$ 2,433.35	Kashmir Flood Relief
CHILDREN'S HOPE INDIA INC	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,416.75	\$ 8,583.25	Kashmir Flood Relief
KOA Member	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 708.37	\$ 4,291.63	Kashmir Flood Relief
S V B FOUNDATION INC	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 3,541.87	\$ 21,458.13	Kashmir Flood Relief
KOA Member	\$ 100.00	\$ 14.17	\$ 85.83	Rishi School
KOA Member	\$ 101.00	\$ 14.31	\$ 86.69	Rishi School
KOA Member	\$ 300.00	\$ 42.50	\$ 257.50	Rishi School
KOA Member	\$ 300.00	\$ 42.50	\$ 257.50	Rishi School
KOA Member	\$ 50.00	\$ 7.08	\$ 42.92	Kashmir Heritage Program
Total	\$ 43,686.00	\$ 6,189.21	\$ 37,496.79	

I must take this opportunity to thank our numerous volunteers, such as **Pran ji Kaul** (CA) for getting donations and his interactions with Shirdi Sai Parivaar. Our sincere thanks are due to AIKS volunteers, *Yakjah* and **Ashima ji Kaul** as well. Last but not the least, my sincere thanks



on behalf of my Executive team and the KOA board, to **Sh. Rakesh ji Kaul**, Program Director, for putting in his stupendous effort in managing this project and making it a reality despite many obstacles we faced.

**This wraps up our flood relief operation.** Thank you once again for your generosity and we look forward to your continued support. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Best regards,

Spril Foteday

### **Sunil Fotedar**

President, KOA Inc. Spring, Texas 281-387-1877 (Cel) 281-645-6622 (Res)

e-mail: president@koausa.org





## **Program Director**

**KOA India Outreach Program** 

Rakesh K. Kaul, NJ



### **Profile**

Rakesh K. Kaul is a community activist who is focused on Kashmiri culture, arts and heritage. He has co-chaired The Arts of Kashmir Exhibition at Asia Society in 2008. He has published articles on Kashmir including - Book on Durga personal and relevant to the times – The Indian Express, July 2011; Midnight's Refugees - The Indian Express, August 2011; The 4 pawns on the Chatarunga Board – Shehjar, September 2008; How KP international Diaspora can help in finding solutions in Jammu and Kashmir - Shehjar, February 2011; The Idea of India and Core of Kashmir - The Indian Express, June 2012; Turning off Shankaracharya's beacon - The Indian Express, March 2014; NaamaRoopaAham's role in Indian History – Kashmir's case history-Hindu Historiography Seminar Global Hindu Institute 2014, San Jose; India's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Night of Broken Bangles – The Indian Express, January 2015

Our sincere thanks for his management of Kashmir Flood Relief program.



## **Total Donations Collected**

Donors	Amount	Comment
S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$ 2,835.00	Fund A
S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$ 25,000.00	Fund A
CHILDREN'S HOPE INDIA INC	\$ 10,000.00	Fund A
KOA Members (India-outreach)	\$ 851.00	Fund A
KOA Member	\$ 5,000.00	Fund A
KOA Members (Flood relief)	\$ 6,339.80	Fund B
Shirdi Sai Parivaar	\$ 4,200.00	Fund B
Total	\$ 54,225.80	

With GoI being best equipped to respond to the acute needs post flood we were advised to focus on the long term chronic needs of the community which would not make headline news and would therefore suffer from neglect. We divided the moneys into Fund A and Fund B (as shown in Table above), the latter being focused on deserving individual beneficiaries facing critical humanitarian needs. As far as the chronic needs are concerned, we had **Sh. Rakesh Kaul Sr**, KOA Program Director for India Outreach program, consult with the donors and we obtained their concurrence to fund the programs such as Jagati Middle School and heritage center platform programs.



## Distribution Through AIKS

9/16/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 4,925.00
12/22/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 1,300.00
1/5/2014	All India Kashmiri Samaj	\$ 1,445.00
	Total	\$ 7,670.00

To get started with the aid distribution, such items as gas stoves, solar lamps and warm clothes (sweater, blankets, etc. were distributed in three separate installments among the flood-affected victims in village, Saddal, at Panjar in district Udhampur through the efforts of AIKS volunteers





KOA is indebted to the following organizations and individuals to come forward and contribute towards the KOA's initiative towards Flood relief efforts:

- Children's Hope India (CHI), Inc.
- SVB Foundation, Inc.
- Shirdi Sai Pariyaar
- Ravi Mattu
- KOA Members

KOA welcomes opportunity to work with other non-profit organizations toward a common cause.









With donations from KOA, AIKS team distributed Gas stoves, Solar Lamps and warm clothes to the affected families. AIKS started the relief measures soon after the flood fury hit the Valley as well as Jammu province. Earlier in the first phase the Samaj provided the help to the community members living in the Valley followed by the second phase. In Jammu AIKS distributed relief to the flood affected victims of Phalain Mandal. The families who have shifted to Panjar in camps were also been given a help from AIKS.

Excerpts from: http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/aiks-team-distributes-relief-among-flood-victims/





The Expenditure of the Funds were primarily to defray the costs of the providing food and other relief supplies including the costs of customs clearance for the sweaters which were shipped to the folks in Jammu and Srinagar. The sweater program was spearheaded by Dr. Sushma Kaul along with Anita Raina, Anil Dhar, Pickee Kaul, Kiran Safaya, and other volunteers along with other non KOA organizations. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank KLM for their assistance in shipping.











December 23, 2016 KOA Flood Relief 9









## Balance in each Fund after disbursement to AIKS

Fund	Amount Raised	Portion paid to AIKS for Flood Relief	Balance
Fund A	\$ 43,686.00	\$ 6,189.21	\$ 37,496.79
Fund B	\$ 10,539.80	\$ 1,480.79	\$ 9,059.01
Total	\$ 54,225.80	\$ 7,670.00	\$ 46,555.80

December 23, 2016 KOA Flood Relief 11



## Donation paid directly to beneficiary through AIKS and Yakjah

Beneficiaries	Amount Donated from Fund B	Shirdi Sai Parivaar Contribution		
Flood relief victims in Saddal, at	\$ 1,480.79	\$ 242.05		
Panjar in district Udhampur (AIKS)	φ 1,400.75	φ 242.03		
Satish Thotha (Yakjah)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,747.44		
Shanti Dhar (Yakjah)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 873.72		
Ashok Kaul (Yakjah)	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 672.76		
Tej Krishan Kaul (Yakjah)	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 489.28		
BL Dhar (Yakjah)	\$ 400.00	\$ 174.74		
Total	\$ 10,540.79	\$ 4,200.00		

Though we sent some relief initially through AIKS, but we needed some help from an organization that actually worked in Kashmir valley and could distribute relief to KPs in the valley. This is where we used services of *Yakjah* - an organization run by Ashima ji Kaul - to distribute flood relief funds to some deserving cases in Kashmir. Ashima ji is an independent journalist and peace practitioner and managing director of Yakjah, with volunteers from the regions of Delhi, Jammu and Valley mobilizing friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues and strangers through Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, word of mouth to donate for flood relief. Yakjah identified the following KP beneficiaries still living in Kashmir that were in dire need of financial need.





# Beneficiary # 1 Satish Kumar Thotha







• Satish Kumar Thotha owns a shop in Jawahar nagar which is located next to his house. Unfortunately his house has been completely flattened. He is living with his family in Sheikhpora quarters. He was also hurt during the floods for which he had to travel to Jammu and Delhi for treatment.



Satish Kumar Thotha







Satish Kumar Thotha







Shanti Dhar



- Shanti Dhar had lost everything. Her home in Jawahar Nagar was completely flattened. When Ashima Kaul, Managing Director of *Yakjah*, had last visited her she had began to build the house as she was living in a shed. As a single parent and two liabilities (her paraplegic brother-in-law and teenager son) she had used all her pension savings and taken loan from neighbors.
- It will be nice if in the long run we are able to address the issue of livelihood for her son.
   Perhaps think of an entrepreneurial venture for him as employment in Kashmir, that too for minority boys is quite challenging. They unfortunately do not fall under the migrant PM package.



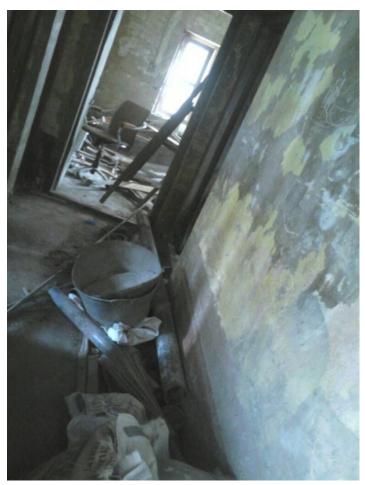
Shanti Dhar







**Ashok Kaul** 



**Ashok Kaul** is a resident of Jawahar Nagar. His house was badly damaged due to floods.



December 23, 2016 KOA Flood Relief 19



Tej Krishan Kaul

They are two brothers. One of them had a shop, which was main source of income. It has completely been damaged and they have not been able to re-start it. The other brother is retired. They live in Indira Nagar and took the flood onslaught as their house is located in the front and when the waters came took their belongings as well. They claim even the gold they had saved for daughter wedding was also swept. However ,they live in the house, though their families had moved to Jammu temporarily.







**BL Dhar** 



Mr. BL Dhar lives in Indira Nagar. His house has not been damaged but he lost all his belongings. He still lives in Badgam quarters and has not moved back to his home. They are an aged couple.





## Revenue

Donors	Amount			
KOA Members	\$	6,339.80		
Sai Parivaar	\$	4,200.00		
Total	\$	10,539.80		



## **Expenses**

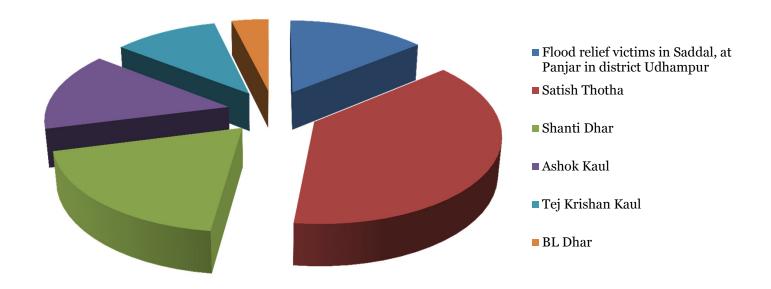
Beneficiaries	Amount Donated	Sai Parivaar Contribution		Comments
Flood relief victims in Saddal, at Panjar in district Udhampur	\$ 1,480.79	\$	242.05	Gas stoves, Solar Lamps and warm clothes (sweater, blankets, etc. Donations through AIKS efforts was \$7670, out of which \$1480.79 shown is propotional to the flood relief fund collected from Sai Parivaar and US-based KOA members combined (a total of \$10539.80), rest of it (\$6,189.21) was provided through donations received for India-Outreach efforts.
Satish Thotha	\$ 4,000.00	\$	1,747.44	Donation paid directly to beneficiary (Yakjah)
Shanti Dhar	\$ 2,000.00	\$	873.72	Donation paid directly to beneficiary (Yakjah)
Ashok Kaul	\$ 1,540.00	\$	672.76	Donation paid directly to beneficiary (Yakjah)
Tej Krishan Kaul	\$ 1120.00	\$	489.28	Donation paid directly to beneficiary (Yakjah)
BL Dhar	\$ 400.00	\$	174.74	Donation paid directly to beneficiary (Yakjah)
Total	\$ 10,540.79	\$	4,200.00	

December 23, 2016 KOA Flood Relief 23



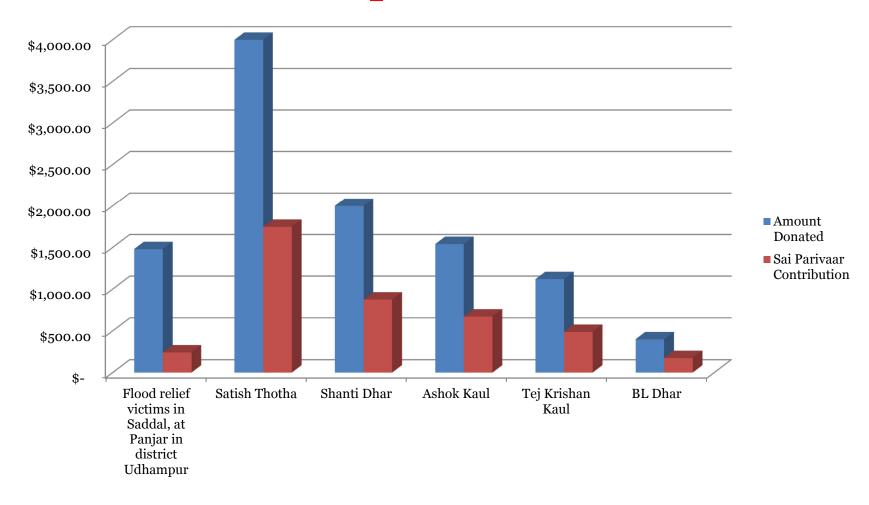
## **Expenses**

# **Amount Donated**





## **Expenses**







## Yakjah's Response to Kashmir Deluge



- Yakjah volunteers from the regions of Delhi, Jammu and Valley mobilized friends, relatives, neighbors, colleagues and strangers through Twitter, Facebook, Whatsapp, word of mouth to donate for flood relief
- Collected rations (rice, pulses, flour), water, medicines, blankets, baby food, milk powder, sanitary napkins, toiletry, torches, diapers, bed sheets, clothes and undergarments
- Provided relief to 100 families (600 people) in Gujjar Basti in Jammu
- Provided relief to 52 individual families in Kashmir Valley
- Provided expensive medicines to 6 people related to cancer, diabetes and thyroid
- Provided relief to families in Shutrashahi and Sheedganj
- Provided relief to families in Tangpora on bypass
- Held a medical camp in Lasjan
- Provided fresh food for the first week of floods to flood victims in Bagat-e-Barzulla Gurudwara
- Documents at: <a href="http://koausa.org/yakjah/Yakjah Flood Relief.zip">http://koausa.org/yakjah/Yakjah Flood Relief.zip</a>



## Ashima Kaul Managing Director of Yakjah



- An independent journalist and peace practitioner.
- In 2010, registered Yakjah as a social innovation for social transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- As Managing Director of Yakjah she has expanded her work in all the three regions Ladakh, Kashmir and Jammu building leadership for personal transformation, social change, peace, security and justice.



## **Remaining Funds**

Date	Name	Initial		ood Relief Intribution		Balance	Comments
10/24/2014	C V D FOLINDATION INC. LICA	_	2.025.00		_	2 422 25	Marsharia Florad Dalias
10/24/2014	S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$	2,835.00	\$ 401.65	\$	2,433.35	Kashmir Flood Relief
9/22/2014	CHILDREN'S HOPE INDIA INC	\$	10,000.00	\$ 1,416.75	\$	8,583.25	Kashmir Flood Relief
11/17/2014	KOA Member	\$	5,000.00	\$ 708.37	\$	4,291.63	Kashmir Flood Relief
10/6/2014	S V B FOUNDATION INC USA	\$	25,000.00	\$ 3,541.87	\$	21,458.13	Kashmir Flood Relief
4/9/2014	KOA Member	\$	100.00	\$ 14.17	\$	85.83	Rishi School
5/15/2014	KOA Member	\$	101.00	\$ 14.31	\$	86.69	Rishi School
7/13/2014	KOA Member	\$	300.00	\$ 42.50	\$	257.50	Rishi School
7/18/2014	KOA Member	\$	300.00	\$ 42.50	\$	257.50	Rishi School
11/21/2014	KOA Member	\$	50.00	\$ 7.08	\$	42.92	Kashmir Heritage Program
	Total	\$	43,686.00	\$ 6,189.21	\$	37,496.79	

After seeking Donors' permission, the remaining balance of \$37496.79 was transferred to **Sharika Trust** in Jammu in 2 separate instalments of \$20000 and \$17496.79 for Jagati Project (click on link below for a presentation):

## **Jagati Middle School December 2017 Status.pptx**

https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=778282383D7D4388!137405&ithint=file,pptx&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!AJRnObt9ZUBNbGw

## **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: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/koahealthcare">https://www.facebook.com/groups/koahealthcare</a>
Entrepreneurs: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/koaentrepreneurs">https://www.facebook.com/groups/koaentrepreneurs</a>

### LINKEDIN FOCUS GROUPS:

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

KOA Technology Focus Group: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559541">https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559541</a>

KOA Entrepreneur Focus Group: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559545">https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8559545</a>



























